

THE SOUTHERN PLANTER.

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, and the Household Arts.

Agriculture is the nursing mother of the Arts.—
Xenophon.

Tillage and Pasturage are the two breasts of the
State.—*Sully.*

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ADDRESS OF WM. BALLARD PRESTON BEFORE
THE VIRGINIA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
AT ITS SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—I appear before you in the discharge of a duty your kindness has assigned me.

I will be happy if I shall be able to contribute anything to promote the objects of your association—if I shall be able, in the smallest degree to aid in advancing the condition of agriculture, horticulture and the auxiliary mechanic arts in Virginia.

The necessity of improvement appears in a manner that appeals most strongly to the interest, the pride, and the patriotism of our people.

Everywhere around us the elements of wealth and power are disclosed to inspire confidence in our efforts and invoke every energy and influence at our command to secure success.

You have denominated your association the "Virginia State Agricultural Society." Its title discloses that its organization embraces every portion of our territory. Its object is to bless with wealth, prosperity and happiness all our people.

The success that will attend your efforts depends on the freedom, candor and accuracy with which you examine the progress of agriculture in Virginia, and the application you make of that knowledge to our present condition and circumstances.

"The soil, the climate, the value of land and the value of labor are the primary elements that enter into the consideration of the agriculture of a country."

It is important that we should fully understand these great and primary elements of wealth and power as they exist in Virginia—that we should understand what are the advantages—what the disadvantages that attend them—what the peculiarities, and what the effect of such peculiarities in enhancing or impairing their present or prospective value—

what their defects—are they permanent in their characters or are they such as experience and attention would enable us to remedy? The proper decision of these important questions must, of necessity, be the result of time, patience and labor.

Enough is already known to inspire the liveliest zeal and to produce an abiding confidence that in these primary elements of agricultural wealth—these great foundations of national strength and power, a kind and bountiful Providence has blessed us to an extent unsurpassed.

Situated in the heart of the Confederacy, Virginia embraces, within her limits, an extent of territory greater than any of the original members of the Union. Fronting on the Atlantic coast, her regions are spread out to a great extent along its shores, beautifully diversified with hills and valleys, mountains and plains, that reach to the Tennessee and Ohio on our Western border. Her climate is mild and genial, enabling our people to pursue their labor, in the open air, for longer periods than almost any on the continent—subject to no extreme vicissitude of cold or heat, watered with abundant showers during the whole year—maturing the crops its soil produces with rapidity, certainty and perfection—adapted to the growth of corn, wheat, tobacco, vegetables—all the cereals common to temperate climates, with fruits and flowers in perfection and beauty, with bays, rivers and fountains unsurpassed; and as the result of all, blessing our people with health, vigor and longevity.

Our soil, throughout the State, was originally fertile, and of great variety of character and productiveness. In the East much of it worn and impaired by injudicious and rigorous cultivation, but susceptible of rapid and permanent improvement. In the West, large districts of fertile land, broken by mountains, containing, in purity and abundance, iron, coal, lead, gypsum and salt, with mineral waters of value and variety. In neither section have

there been geological surveys or scientific examinations of the soil sufficiently general and accurate in their character to afford information upon which we can rely.

Whilst we regret the want of such knowledge, and whilst we confidently hope it will be supplied under the influences of this and similar associations, still we have, within our reach, sources of information, and means of practical improvement sufficient to secure results highly beneficial and gratifying.

From the extent of our territory, the variety of our soil, climate and productions, the difference of our pursuits and occupations, from peculiarities in the situations of various sections of our State, it is incumbent upon us carefully to examine the condition of every portion thereof, and with the means and resources at our command to improve the agricultural condition of the whole. The important questions, with our Eastern friends, are, how shall we increase the fertility and productiveness of our soil, render our labor more profitable, and thus arrest permanently the emigration of our people? while, with the West, the important questions are, how shall we procure the labor necessary to develop our resources, and how the facilities for transporting them to market?

Their solution rests almost exclusively with the agricultural classes in our State. They have the intelligence, wealth, numbers and influence that enable them to decide and control all these questions according to their will and pleasure—to remedy the defects, to apply the corrective, to remove the difficulties, and secure the benefits all desire.

The voluntary associations which our people are effecting, of all these classes, inspires the firmest confidence, and affords the strongest assurance, that all these interests will be wisely and patriotically advanced and promoted.

To what are we to attribute the exhaustion of the soil, and the diminution of its productiveness in Eastern Virginia? Is it the result of climate or soil? or is it the peculiarity of our labor, and its influence on our agriculture?

In the United States two different and rival systems of labor exist; in the North what they are pleased to term free labor, and in the South a mixed system of free and slave labor. The comparative merits of these systems have been the fruitful topic of excited and violent debate, and the source of dangerous legislation. I shall touch the subject, not for the purpose of exciting feelings of hostility, but as an industrial question bearing upon our agricultural prospects.

The adaptation of the Southern States to

the production of tobacco, rice and indigo, contributed most to the introduction of the African slave among us. The profits derived from his labor, the adaptation of his constitution to our climate, rendered the slave more profitable when employed in the cultivation of the staples on the fertile land, and in the warm climates of the South, than in agricultural pursuits in Northern climates. The North found its profits in the traffic and transportation of the slave—the South in his labor. Nor was the superior value of the slave in the South manifest alone in the cultivation of the southern staples. Experience discloses that slave labor, whether directed to those staples, or the products necessary for food and subsistence, was more profitable in the South than in the North from the natural superiority of the former over the latter in climate and soil.

The result is apparent in the concentration of the slave population in the Southern States, and in a general and almost exclusive devotion of their attention and labor to agricultural employments; while the North has devoted much of its labor to other pursuits, more profitable, and better suited to its circumstances and conditions.

Under the system we have pursued, we have impaired our soil, and diminished its original productiveness. We have failed to improve and develop the superior advantages, and greater resources we possess. Still, under wise councils and with proper exertions we have it in our power to establish permanently the superiority of our section.

Those uninformed or hostile to our interests as a people, attribute the defects in our system of agriculture, the exhaustion of our soil, and particularly the slowness of our increase in population, to the institution of slavery alone. Increase in the population of a State when properly examined, with due consideration of the circumstances and facts which affect the conclusion, may be relied on as affording a just and fair criterion by which to estimate its general prosperity. When considered alone and without such qualification, it is eminently calculated to mislead and bewilder.

Is it true, then, when tried by this standard, that the prosperity of the North is greater than that of the South? and is the inference a just one, that the difference in their respective increase is the result of the causes to which they attribute it?

The six New England States have increased in the last decade in the ratio of 22 per cent.; the central slave States, with Virginia, 26 per cent.; the middle States, with New York and Pennsylvania, 29 per cent.; while the Southern

planting States have increased 33 per cent. In the absence of other causes to account for these facts, they establish, that the institution of slavery, so far from diminishing the ratio of increase in the Southern States, has augmented it.

The increase of population in the Southern States has been almost exclusively the result of natural causes, while the Northern States have had their numbers greatly increased by a tide of foreign immigration unparelled in our history.

I will not trouble you with details. A fact or two will suffice.

By the census of 1850 it appears that Massachusetts, with a population of 994,514, contained, of those born in foreign countries, 163,590, while Virginia, with a population of 2,421,661, contained of those born in foreign countries but 22,505. In Virginia the ratio of emigration of her native citizens has amounted to 26 per cent. of the whole; while that of Connecticut and Vermont have amounted to 25 per cent. of their native citizens, "and would, if the number of slaves in the Southern States were admitted into the calculation, perhaps exceed any of them"—that is, would exceed 36 per cent.

Our white population in Virginia have not emigrated to avoid the slave, nor have they emigrated in as large a ratio as in other portions of the Union in which slavery does not exist. The increase of our entire population in Virginia during the last decade, is at the ratio of 14.66 per cent. Of that of our white population at 20 per cent. Our slaves 5 per cent.

The increase in our white population when compared with Vermont, is 20 to 7; with New Hampshire 20 to 11; Connecticut, 20 to 19; with Maine, 20 to 16—an increase greater than any of the New England States, Massachusetts and Rhode Island excepted. Causes that are plain and obvious account for these exceptions.

And hence the error of the assertion that the existence of slavery has stimulated the removal of our white population.

At the period of the census of 1840, the ratio of our increase for the previous ten years had fallen to the low point of 2 per cent. Then it was that the note of fanaticism began to elevate its frantic tones. Then it was that the slowness of increase in our population disclosed the weakness of our institutions, and the argument brought, as they supposed, to the unerring test of facts and figures. Then the Northern States became the standard by which prosperity and progress were alone to be tried.

By the census of 1840, the increase in our population was found to be 2 per cent. By the census of 1850, it is 14.66 per cent. With a larger slave population during the latter than the former period, the increase has been seventy-fold greater—the cause assigned for our slow increase still existing, and in greater force, but with results entirely different.

The small increase of our numbers up to 1840 was the result of causes which every where in America affect this question of increase in population. From the beginning of this century the ratio of increase in Virginia had been regularly declining, with a single exception, till the year 1840, having never been above 17 per cent., while New York and Pennsylvania, beginning respectively at 72 and 36 per cent., had also diminished till they stood, in 1840, at 28 and 27 per cent. Then began that great improvement in the old Atlantic States which, with a single exception, has marked the progress of all.

For the ten years previous to 1850, the ratio of increase in the population of Virginia, compared with the ratio of her increase in the ten years previous, had been greater than any of the New England States, or the middle States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, on a similar comparison. And when compared with our own progress, it had been absolutely greater than in any equal period within the century.

The conclusion, gentlemen, from all these facts is, not that the vital energies of our State are overwhelmed and merged in a wicked and unprofitable institution; not that we are "sick," and, therefore, invite aggression and outrage, but that there is life, and health, and youth, the recuperative power of a self-relying, self-sustaining energy among us.

It then appears that the emigration from our State was not the result of our slave institution. It was the result of other and very different causes, upon which it is not my intention to dwell in detail.

I propose briefly to point out some of the reasons that induce me to believe and hope that those causes are not permanent in their character, that they are temporary and limited in their duration, that in the future they will operate with diminished force; while the counterbalancing influences that have already checked the progress of emigration, will continue steadily and uniformly to increase in force and efficacy, so as, at a period, not remote, to arrest the progress of a current which has borne away so much of the vital elements of agricultural success and prosperity.

What is it then that has produced this change?

Why have our people ceased to remove from among us in such numbers as formerly. It would be unsatisfactory to attribute it to accident. It must be the result of causes which, however imperfectly they may be understood, or however imperfectly I may be able to point them out, have their origin and foundation in those principles of human conduct that regulate society.

Communities, like individuals, regulate their actions, to a great extent, by their convictions of their interests. Under wise and just perceptions of interest, no higher or better standard can be established. It is, therefore, fair to infer from the facts that I have exhibited, that the people of Virginia, so far as emigration has already been arrested, have arrived at the conclusion that their interest is not promoted, or their condition improved by a removal to the South and West; that their happiness and prosperity and that of their posterity will be best secured by remaining where they are. These conclusions could only be rational on the part of our people upon the assumption that they are the result of careful examination of the advantages of remaining where they are, or removing from among us—tried by their experience of the past, and their estimate of the future.

That they have decided rightly, who have thus decided, I cannot permit myself for a moment to doubt. Many of the inducements that hitherto stimulated emigration still exist; and would, doubtless, produce the same results as formerly were they not counteracted by other and more potent considerations. With the slave owner, so far as the condition of things in the West operates upon him, the inducements and temptations are the same. The reduction in the quantity of the cotton lands is comparatively trifling. There they lay in extent sufficient to employ the labor of millions. There they still lay in their original fertility, untouched, unenclosed, unsubdued by the hand of man—surpassing the Nile, whose annual inundation restores the exhaustion consequent upon labor; along their rivers lay the accumulated richness of all their inundations since they passed from the hands of the Creator; on their hills and plains, the fertility which ages and centuries of rank and luxuriant foliage has returned and restored to the earth for its repletion and fatness—there they lay at prices as cheap, and at many points cheaper, than at any former period; with increased facilities for reaching them; with a saving in time, cost and hazard; with fewer privations, inconveniences and embarrassments attending their settlement and occupation; with greater

advantages in every social and domestic relation than were formerly in reach of the settler and emigrant. Still, gentlemen, our emigration is decreasing and our population increasing more rapidly than at any period within the century.

Is it because there has been a reduction in the price of the staple products of the South-west? The sugar and cotton in America in the rapidity of their growth and cultivation—the increased demand, the increased production, their annual rewards and their ultimate importance, are the marvel and the wonder of the age in which we live. Never were they more prosperous than during the last years.

Is it that there has been a reduction of the value of slaves in the Southern market? All know that at no time has the demand been greater, or the price higher than within the same period. Or is it that these staples are endangered by the competition of foreign countries and cheap labor? The answer must be, they are more secure than at any previous period.

Nevertheless, in the face of all these things, the emigration from Virginia to that region has been and is diminishing.

Then, as to our non-slaveholding population. The prospect of reduction of the price of land in the North-west is the only danger that presents itself.

The statistics, before adverted to, establish the fact that the tendency to emigration of our white population is less than in the Eastern agricultural States. That the ratio of emigration of our white class is, when compared with the black, very small; their respective increase being as 20 to 5.

So far from our institution stimulating the removal of this class, the habits, opinions and sentiments which prevail in the South are imbibed and cherished as generally and strongly by the non-slaveholding portion of our community as by others. We rejoice to see and know that in the excitement and conflict of opinion which have arisen between the rival section of the Union, there has been an absolute failure in every effort to excite feelings of hostility or discontent between these classes. On the contrary, the occasion and question, have rallied and united in one general sentiment, opinion and resolution, all classes and conditions of our people.

The emigrant from Virginia to the North-west finds his opinions, habits and tastes all differing and conflicting as strongly with those who surround him as the slaveholder himself would. The climate, the habits of society, its

whole frame and structure are new, unfamiliar and distasteful to him.

Those of us, gentlemen, who have witnessed the scene can never forget, how year after year we beheld the anxious struggling crowd, pressing forward through sunshine and through storm, over mountains and valleys, in long continuous crowds of carriages and waggons, rich and poor, young and old, white and black, master and slave, hastening with impetuous ardor and zeal to this fancied El Dorado and Elysium of the West, till we seemed, as we beheld the stream, to be left desolate and alone, amid the depopulated and abandoned scenes of our youth.

The drama has ended! 'Tis but an occasional emigrant we meet. Now and then a solitary family may be seen on their pathway to the West. And wherefore? It is, gentlemen, that experience and observation have taught our people that the high advantages, the great benefits, the prospects of immediate wealth and fortune that filled the imaginations and inspired the hopes of those who have gone from among us, have not been realized. They now begin to see and realize what was not appreciated or understood before—that in the progress of society, in the march of time, the Atlantic slope of our continent possessed advantages, that in many essential respects surpassed all other portions of our country for the residence and habitation of man—that its climate, its soil, its bays, its rivers, its mountains, its proximity to the sea, placed it in stronger and closer connexion with the true elements of human productiveness, than any inland or central portion of the continent whatever. They see the commerce of the country, the products of the soil, of the mine, of the forest, of the rivers, of human industry in every form in which it produces values, are pouring themselves from the centre, and accumulating their treasures on the Atlantic circumference everywhere—that manufacturers are establishing themselves on those streams which most directly and rapidly discharge themselves into the waters of the ocean—that artificial lines are superseding natural ones—that by the nearest and most direct route they may also carry their tribute to the sea—that agriculture is springing into new life and vigor along its once sterile and depopulated shores—that natural fertility and cheapness of soil do not counterbalance the advantages possessed by this Atlantic region.

The very emigration that weakened us for a season and concentrated large numbers in the West, with its rich soils and powerful energies in agricultural productions, is strengthening us

by being thrown back on the Atlantic States for a market. In their emigration to the West, our people found a point of doubtful, and at most, of temporary superiority. The more rapid and greater the productiveness of that region, the sooner would the reaction occur, and the clearer and more obvious the superiority we possess, be disclosed.

This natural superiority had long since been understood by the great intellects of that time with George Washington at their head. They perceived, that the natural outlet of the valley of the Mississippi was not in many respects an adequate, or the most advantageous channel through which these boundless productions were destined to reach a market.

These advantages in our position are now fully disclosing themselves every where, and hence the impulse given to the Atlantic States since the census of 1840.

They, gentlemen, are wise, who seeing these things, reach out their hands and grasp them, and hold them, and appropriate them to the great purposes for which they were designed—to the purposes of wealth, and strength, and numbers, and security; and they are unwise who permit them to be appropriated by others, to impoverish, to embarrass, to control our people.

The Western emigrant in his pursuit of fortune, finds, as if by magic, his face turned to the East. His exertions are now employed to make cheap and direct means of transportation for his products to the true point of profit, and a market, in the very land he had left behind. It is not the East struggling to bring back the West. It is the emigrant and the descendant of the emigrant struggling to reach the point from which they or their fathers had departed, for they too have discovered that these are the great points of agricultural and commercial wealth. Every means of communication with the interior and the West is but another channel and conduit through which the reflux wave of production and wealth is rolled back upon its source, and this is the current, the strongest force of emigration cannot stem.

From the strength and velocity of the tide of emigration fifteen years ago, we would have inferred that the roads and canals which pass to the West from the Atlantic States, would have reduced all to absolute exhaustion, in their important elements of numbers, capital and strength.

But how small the number of those found passing along them as emigrants in the Southern States. Northwardly they are crowded; principally, however, with the foreign popula-

tion we are inviting to our shores and planting in such munificence on our Western lands.

The evil we deplore is not the slowness of our natural increase—it is the migration of our own people. That increase will be slower than in those States into which the foreign immigration is emptying itself. Our means of augmenting our numbers rest principally on natural causes, promoted by every circumstance favorable to increase and multiplication—on the success with which we restrain and repel the spirit of emigration, that has hitherto contributed so largely to impair our strength and retard our agricultural improvement.

It may, I think, be safely affirmed that the very superiority itself in climate and production that rendered the slave labor of the South so highly remunerative, is the fruitful source of many of the evils under which we labor in Virginia. That the large annual profits produced, and the too exclusive devotion of our labor to the staples of tobacco and cotton, constituted the principal causes of the exhaustion of our soil, and the emigration of our people. The experience of our section assures us, that the labor of a man on fresh soil, under favorable circumstances, when devoted to the cultivation of tobacco, cotton or sugar, will, at the usual market prices, produce a larger annual return in money than when directed under like circumstances, to the production of the cereals or any general objects of agricultural pursuit. The prospects, therefore, held out of immediate wealth, directed the exertions of our agriculturists to those products, to the exclusion of others. The wheat, the corn, the grass, the herds were all neglected for the rich flood that was annually poured into their lap. No time could be spared to erect valuable houses or barns—no ditching to add to the permanent value of the land—no rotation of crops—no time or labor expended in manuring or improving the soil. Rich lands were in abundance everywhere around them, and they leave to future generations, the task of improving and restoring the soils they exhaust. The product of the acre this year in cultivation enables them to buy as good an one for the next, and leave an amount of income sufficient for present wants. What need of care? since the plant they cultivate, and the labor they command, enable them to purchase all they desire.

The farm is not worked on the principle that ought to regulate agricultural pursuits—or that which in the end secures the highest agricultural rewards and profits; but on that usual in working a mine or furnace or a salt well—where the labor is regarded as of too much

value—the present reward too captivating and alluring to permit any other object, however necessary and proper, to be attended to, or cared for. This is unquestionably the tendency of things, where a single product affords profits above and beyond the usual profits on labor in other pursuits, and in the general agricultural products of a country.

Under these influences, the tobacco cultivation has contributed most to produce the exhaustion of soil which characterizes large portions of our State. The injury thus effected is not justly attributable to the plant itself, or the slave labor with which it has been cultivated. It is attributable to the errors I have just adverted to—to the manner in which the cultivation has been conducted, to excessive, negligent and long continued cultivation of the same crops—to want of rest and proper rotation—all having their source in the large annual profits derived from the cultivation of tobacco, on fresh soils, and the consequences it produces on the habits of our planters and agriculturists.

But the errors of the past are not irremediable. The injury they produced are not so permanent, or extensive, that industry, economy, and a proper course of agriculture cannot remedy them—not so great as to deter or discourage us in the effect.

Observation and experience have shown us the errors of the system formerly pursued—the error of relying on a single product for our profits—of pursuing that system that regards present profits as more advantageous than ultimate wealth—that experience that teaches us that annual profits from our land, however large, cannot compensate for its exhaustion and impoverishment—that true economy is promoted and ultimate wealth more certainly attained by devoting more time, labor and money in improving our soil, our houses, quarters, stock, and to the health, habits and wants of our slaves—that the reduction of our income thus produced, has more than its compensation in the augmentation of our permanent capital—that the safest and most profitable agricultural pursuits are those that yield their profits, so that the increase is not all received in the form of annual income in money; so liable to be misspent under the temptations that surround us—so often injudiciously re-invested or left uninvested, from inattention or negligence—that experience that assures us that amid the dazzling prospects of wealth and fortune which the staples of the South, the teeming products of the West, the seductive gold of the Pacific, holds up to our view—there is no better, or in the end, more profitable investment of capital,

than in agricultural pursuits in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In the variety and diversity of our crops, security, and, in a series of years, profit and wealth will most probably be attained. This is obviously the true system with the Virginia agriculturist. With large demands upon him for subsistence and supplies, he is compelled to provide them from his own farm and with his own labor, or rely on purchasing them from others.

Where a single crop, such as tobacco or wheat is relied on, this dependence is greater than can be borne from the casualties, losses and uncertainties in agricultural pursuits. It becomes, when thus conducted, an adventure or speculation, dependent upon a frost, or storm, or drought, instead of a well insured and regular system protected from accident, casualty and loss, by all the means in our power.

The soil and climate adapted to tobacco are those in which wheat, corn, oats and in some portions of the State grasses are produced in perfection and abundance. Where there is not an undue proportion of labor devoted to tobacco, it is not difficult so to apportion the crops, as to enable us to furnish regular labor throughout the year, at the period proper for the cultivation of each. Where the quantity is so regulated as to permit the planter and farmer to pursue a system of improvement of his soils, with such variety of products as experience has shown advisable and proper; then the tobacco cultivation is of great importance to a large portion of the State.

It is not considered a great exhaustor of the soil; it has a superiority in value over any produced on the continent; it is less subject to depreciation from foreign competition than any of our productions, and constitutes, in connection with the other crops with which it can be cultivated, an important and permanent advantage to our agriculture in Virginia.

Whatever contributes to retard emigration, to increase the profits on agricultural labor, to reduce the cost of transportation to market, to multiply the production of the soil, must be regarded as important to our agricultural prosperity.

A large and fertile portion of the State has hitherto been so situated that its importance has been but imperfectly understood, and but slightly appreciated. With agricultural, mineral and manufacturing resources that only require the hand of industry and labor to add incalculably to the wealth, power and prosperity of the State, its progress has been slow, its population sparse, its pursuits pastoral, and its wealth inconsiderable.

The rail roads and canals in progress in our State, however inadequate they may be to the wants of our people, or however objectionable the system may be upon which they are constructed, (and of these things I shall certainly not speak,) have already produced on the agriculture of our State important and decisive results—results that contribute to the advancement and prosperity of every portion thereof. Take, for example, the only one that has passed the Alleghany, traversing a region larger than the State of Massachusetts—in its natural resources unsurpassed by any of equal extent on the continent. Hitherto it has been without the benefit of a market. Along the line of this improvement, lands for agricultural purposes have risen from \$10 and \$20 per acre, to \$30 and \$50, and in some instances to \$80 and \$100. The unenclosed and uncultivated lands, which recently were worth from \$2 to \$4 per acre, are now selling for \$5 and \$10 per acre. Eastern Virginians are purchasing these lands, and settling their families and slaves upon them, instead of emigrating as formerly to the West, and transferring your numbers and your wealth beyond your borders and your jurisdiction,

All the mineral and agricultural products of the country are being transported along it. The income of the people has been increased. The prospect of wealth enlarged, and rendered certain. Their activity and energy stimulated and invigorated, and their labor employed in the cultivation of crops that hitherto had little value.

From their remoteness from market, and want of labor, their pursuits, except so far as was necessary for subsistence, were pastoral. The best lands, and largest estates were surrendered to the ox, the horse and the mule. The smaller tracts were purchased by graziers whose capital enabled them to pursue the only occupation which gave pecuniary reward. Their former owners were thus induced to remove, and their places were supplied by flocks and herds—the profits derived from such pursuits poorly compensating the State for the loss sustained in its power and wealth of men and numbers. The entire lands of the country remained at low prices, and the profits on all less than usually attend agricultural pursuits where markets present themselves.

A single year has produced a marked change in the condition and pursuits of its people.

The grazing lands are beginning to be surrendered to the plough for the cultivation of wheat, tobacco, corn, vegetables; and the attention and labor of the country directed to agriculture. This change of pursuit, arresting

as it has and will the grazing on the level lands best suited to the plough, will transfer the grazing to the second rate lands of the country. They, although too steep for constant tillage, are rich and adapted to the grasses. The tobacco crop when resorted to for a year or two, will remove the forest, and in the operation afford a profit; leaving the lands in the finest condition for the grasses. The herds and flocks take the mountains and hills. The valleys and plains are devoted to the labor of man in the diversified crops of tobacco, wheat, corn and vegetables.

But, again, there are those mountains that thus far have only impeded man's progress, or arrested his career. He has approached them with the hand of industry and labor, and crowned them with verdure. Upon their brow and around their sides "bleat flocks innumerable." In his power and dominion he has only appropriated the things on the earth. His authority is to subdue it. He obeys the command. He drives into the mountain, and there is revealed to him the object and reward of the injunction that is upon him. There he finds in the gypsum, as you found in the marl-beds of the East, an element and an agent for the restoration of his soils, exhausted and impaired by the years of cultivation to which he has subjected them. No scrapings of cities, no Northern manufacture, made up and shipped round with the bill of costs, freight, insurance, commission, exchange—"all accurately," "professionally prepared," "on reasonable terms," "and the shortest notice," for the "Southern trade." No, gentlemen, but prepared in purity and abundance from the beginning of time for the noblest and most enduring of all arts—the art of agriculture. Philosophers and chemists may be unable to understand, or account for the manner of its action. The purposes for which it was designed are apparent in the living verdure in which it clothes every spire of grass, or of corn, or of wheat, or tobacco, on which it is deposited.

We anticipate important advantages from the formation of agricultural societies in Virginia. We congratulate each other on the success that has marked their progress, and we confidently rely on their influence and power. They are important and valuable agents for the attainment of our objects. Their influence will be in proportion to their extent and general diffusion.

I trust they may enlist in their service every energy of our State.

On what do we rely for the fulfilment of our hopes and expectations? Can we reasonably expect to find in our associations those, who,

from distance and want of cheap and rapid modes of transit, cannot reach your assemblies? Will they come to increase their knowledge, to stimulate each other, to exhibit their specimens of tobacco, and wheat and corn—their implements of husbandry, their mechanical skill and invention, their live stock—at the cost of time, trouble and money, whose interest will not be promoted by what they see, and hear and learn. It is in vain to hope for it. To improve your agriculture, means to increase your wealth. Your Society would be limited in its numbers, its influence, in the benefits it confers, unless the means are afforded of rapid and easy transit of your members, and their contributions to the capital of the State.

These roads and canals that are penetrating the State in every direction, are powerful, and commanding agents in the improvement of our agriculture in Virginia. They are the agents that have rendered our organization so successful. They have "opened the ponderous" gates of the Blue Ridge and the Alleghany, to close no more. They are weaving us together in a strong and durable fabric of interest, of power and material wealth; nay more, they are strengthening the chords of confidence, of respect, of affection—those bands stronger than iron, those moral elements that bind the world together.

Look for a moment at the proofs that are before us.—See that noble Ox with his glossy coat, reflecting the sunbeam like a mirror. See his small limbs, his fully developed body, his deep chest, his full ribs, his delicate neck, his clear bright eye, chewing his cud in tranquility and repose, amid the din and bustle that surround him—in all the perfection of his nature, ready for the uses for which he was designed, alas! unconscious of the sad fate that awaits him to-morrow. He has been, with a day or two of alarm and watchfulness, transported perhaps from the Shenandoah, or from the luxuriant pastures on the banks of the tributaries of the Ohio. He has been borne across the mountains through the extent of the State, and now reposes on the "James" almost in sight of the Ocean; without fatigue, without injury, without loss.

But for these improvements, he would not have been here. He would be struggling amid storms, and rains, and snows, for some thirty or fifty days to reach a market at Baltimore or Philadelphia—exhausted, impaired, reduced in value, in quality, in beauty—the profits of his rearing greatly diminished to his owner, and his value greatly impaired to the purchaser.

But further, when we look upon this im-

mense assembly—when we reflect on the influence that “association and combined effort” have exerted on mankind—on the good they have effected when rightly—on the evil when wrongly directed,—when we remember that our association had its origin but recently, that to-day it numbers in its ranks thousands of our people—that it commands and unites the science, the learning, the practical knowledge, the industry, wealth, zeal of the low lands and high lands, the town and country, of all parties and all creeds, of all sections and all classes in harmonious and concerted council and action, to improve and consolidate the wealth, happiness, and grandeur of Virginia,—who is there that does not acknowledge, that the agencies that produce all this good—that have effected all these important changes in our circumstances and condition, are the great agricultural improvers of the age.

These are some of the reasons on which I rely when I affirm that the influences that have hitherto retarded the increase of our population, and impaired our agriculture, were temporary in their character and are passing away—that in the future our advance in wealth, prosperity and power, will be regular, steady, and progressive.

The improvement of a farm, or any general improvement in the agriculture of a country is the result of long, patient, persevering attention and labor. It cannot be accomplished in one year or in two, or to any great extent in a single generation. Hence one of the most fatal of the consequences resulting from emigration and the unsettled state of opinion that attends it. During the period of their prevalence in Virginia, the real estate was of little value. Many desired to sell—no one desired to purchase, and all were considering the probable advantages that would attend a change of residence. No improvement of the soil, for it was uncertain whether the owner would remain to reap the rewards. No draining, for that involved present expenditure with promise of future benefit. No rotation of crops, for none had fixed purposes or plans for the future. No improvements in dwellings, quarters, or stables, for they might all be shortly abandoned—nothing permanent—nothing durable—nothing that did not promise immediate returns, was undertaken.—The estate itself became a mere marketable commodity, to be sold, or traded, or parted with, as an ordinary article of personal property.

Consider for a moment the condition of agriculture under these circumstances. What think you of putting your farm under a four or five years rotation, when you might aban-

don it that fall? building good houses to make another man comfortable? erecting quarters for other people's slaves? analyzing your soils, and ascertaining upon the most approved philosophical principles, their constituent elements and properties, to enable you to disclose their merit to some speculator or trader in lands that by accident might be thrown in your way as a purchaser,—buying good ploughs, harrows and implements of husbandry, that when you “traded” your land you might “throw them into the bargain?”

Gentlemen, agricultural improvement only begins when real estate is regarded as a permanent, fixed and unchangeable investment. He only is prepared to aid in its advancement, who regards his *farm* as his permanent home, the spot he has selected for the labor of his life, where the ardor of his youth, the energy of his manhood, and the wisdom of his maturer years, are to find their attractions, their rewards, and their honors,—elevated and strengthened by the resolution to transmit it to posterity, as the true record of what he was in his day and in his generation. “The good men do, is oft interred with their bones.” In agriculture, the good we do lives after us. The fields we enrich—the lands we drain—the spacious barns we erect—the comfortable dwellings we build—the oaks we plant, or preserve around it—the green grass we make grow—the gardens we enclose and adorn—all live after us, and in benefits and blessings perpetuate our name.

He who does this, has inscribed his name on “mother earth,” and the revolving seasons—the chill winter, the bright spring, the warm summer, the fruitful autumn—all come in their order to revive and renew the memory of that man who has left this record behind him—“Agriculture has her triumphs no less, than war, and these are of them.”

“Nothing characterizes more strongly our American industry or contributes in a greater degree to give it superiority over that of the old world, than the inventive genius that displays itself in the construction and use of those labor-saving machines and implements with which it has supplied itself.”

In no pursuit are there benefits more apparent than in the art of agriculture, in the additions they have made to power, the economy they produce in time, and the effectiveness they produce in human labor. “No where can capital be so beneficially employed, as in aiding and strengthening the productive power of nature.”

What has produced more immediate and obvious benefits to agriculture, than the improved

plough, the threshing machine, the wheat reaper? In Virginia we have not availed ourselves of improved agricultural implements to the extent of the benefits they confer. 'Tis not for us to permit these great practical agents of productiveness to remain unenjoyed and unappropriated, and in the competition which surrounds us, have them all actively and injuriously employed against us. They are the achievements of skill and science, and we appreciate the benefits they confer—they are the stimulants and aids of production, and we must avail ourselves of them—they are practical blessings, to be laid hold of and secured—not to be talked of, approved and neglected.

We want in Virginia improvement in the mechanical arts. We want implements of husbandry in all the variety, extent and perfection, in which modern science and art has prepared and fashioned them.

Why go abroad for them? Why go to New York or Massachusetts for those things we can manufacture and prepare at home? Why go to Pennsylvania for the steam car, the plough, the axe, or any implement of husbandry? The iron, the coal, all the minerals necessary for their fabrication, are found in abundance and excellence among us.

Shall they continue to come to us, burdened with charges that diminish the profits on our labor, that augment the wealth of those whose power already controls your markets, directs your commerce and regulates your exchanges? Are we to be told, as heretofore, that our skill is insufficient, our labor unadapted to such pursuits? Shall we acknowledge this inferiority, this weakness in our system, without a trial? Are we willing to perpetuate our dependence and pay our annual tribute, without an effort for relief?

Regard this mechanical and manufacturing system, as conducted by the united labor of both classes of our people—the white man occupying the superior posts of intelligence, reward, and control—the slave the less important and inferior ones. In the work shops and factories of Europe and America, the intelligence and skill necessary to direct and regulate the entire operation, are procured from different classes of their people, and paid for at higher rates of remuneration than those paid to the manual and routine laborers. In agriculture, where labor is susceptible of but limited division, we have found the slave valuable, efficient, skilful. In mechanical and manufacturing arts, labor is susceptible of almost infinite division, and this it is, that renders it so effective in production, in every pursuit to which it can be applied.

Its operation and effect is to simplify, to make easy of comprehension by requiring one thing only to be understood, and one thing to be performed by the operator.—It makes him able to perform that well, from constant habit, and practice directed to that alone. He does it better, and cheaper, and faster, because it ceases to require thought, and becomes a mere habit, performed mechanically, and without reflection.

Our resources, our capital, our labor, are abundant and adequate to supply our wants. Diversify your occupation as you diversify your crops for security and profit. Bring the agriculturist, the mechanic, the manufacturer, side by side, and increase the profits on the labor of all. Shall we be told that the habits and opinions of our people are opposed to it? that the experience of the past finds it better and cheaper to purchase them from the North?

Gentlemen, the painful experience of the present is beginning to tell a tale not yet fully revealed. It begins to tell of obligations violated, of anarchy and confusion.—It is teaching the lesson of self-dependence and self-reliance. It is teaching the "South to look to the South."

Let us then resort to our own mines, our rivers, our workshops and factories, and our own people. Let us stand on the banks of the "James," of the "Appomattox," the "Shenandoah," the "Roanoke," the "Ohio," and make them, at our command and bidding, do the labor of ten thousand hands.

When you do these things, then indeed will you have improved your agricultural condition. Then will you have secured permanent prosperity and repose—then, and not until then, will you have established a commerce on your own shores and in your own harbors—then will you have at your command, the treasures of the land and the treasures of the sea.

BREAD.

The Rhode Island Society for the Promotion of Industry, gave the first premium on domestic bread to Mrs. Hiram Hill, of Providence. The following is Mrs. Hill's recipe for making the bread exhibited by her:

"For two loaves, of the ordinary size, take two potatoes, pare them, slice very thin, and boil quick until quite soft, then mash to a fine pulp, and add, little by little, two quarts of boiling water, stirring until a starch is formed; let this cool, and add one-third of a cup of yeast. This forms the 'sponge,' which should remain in a moderately warm place for ten or twelve hours, or 'over night,' until it becomes very light and frothy, even if a little sour it is of no consequence. When the 'sponge' is ready, add flour, and work it in until you have formed a stiff dough. The longer and more firmly

this is kneaded, the better the bread. Let the kneaded mass remain say from a half to three-quarters of an hour to rise, then divide into pans, where it should remain say fifteen minutes, care being taken that it does not rise too much and crack, then put the loaves into a quick oven and bake, say three-quarters of an hour. If the oven is not hot enough the bread will rise and crack; if too hot, the surface will harden too rapidly and confine the loaf."

For the Southern Planter.

SMUT IN WHEAT.

Mr. Editor,—Having seen in the Southern Planter at various times articles on the disease of wheat, known as smut, I presume it will not be thought out of place to offer what I may think I know in relation thereto. Early, probably in 1809, in fact, when I first noticed smut in wheat—I presume it had been observed and remarked on at an earlier day, as about that time I heard my father and his nearest neighbors, who were intelligent and active farmers, engaged personally, superintending their estates, that smut was propagated by contact; that it was so contagious that pure wheat put into bags in which smut-smitten wheat had been confined, would, if sown, produce smut-infected wheat the succeeding year; that every grain in a smut-infected head would be smut, or in other words, that a head could not be found containing sound and smutted grains; that a sound head and smut head could not be found produced from the same root. The idea was so strange, indeed I then thought monstrous, that I disbelieved it at once and entirely. But my brother and I determined to test the truth of the neighborhood belief, and for that purpose prepared ourselves with a small quantity of pure wheat, which we soaked in pure spring water until near sprouting. We then procured a quantity of smut grains, which we pulverized, then rolled the soaked wheat in the dust—sowed in a rye-field remote from other wheat; harvested from that sowing, pure wheat, without a head of smut. Having obtained that result I was induced (my brother having died) to make other researches, and after much labor, I found heads partly affected by smut. I also subsequently found sound heads and smut heads from the same root. I thus was convinced that smut was not infectious or contagious; that it was not a disease of the head nor of the root, but that it was produced by some other cause. I commenced my researches anew at the commencement of harvest, first by breaking innumerable grains of smut in most of which (not all) I found a small white worm, the head of which was black or very dark. The same year, and near seeding time I commenced my research, to ascertain what became of the white worm of harvest. I found instead, in most of the smut grains broken a small grey bug; from others they had eaten out. I was satisfied that the worm had become the bug. Then my object was to ascertain what became of the grey bug. At the time of the filling of the heads of wheat in the succeeding spring, in examining after the grey bug, I found it *actually* engaged in puncturing the grains of wheat, crawling from grain to grain, ascending and puncturing as it ascended. I found also that a very gentle tap on the stalk of wheat would cause the insect to loosen its hold and fall to the ground. I took a head of wheat on

which I found one of those bugs operating near the top, and upon examination thereof found that the lower grains of wheat which were punctured first were discolored, going fast into smut; that others were yet but slightly tinged; and those from which I observed the bug to fall were not yet, as to appearance of color, infected. I then presumed I had ascertained the cause of the smut, and every year's observation since, for I have annually observed, has confirmed my opinion, and every gentleman who will examine for himself will, I think, be also convinced that smut is produced by this small bug. I am not enough informed on the subject of insects to assign it to a class or genus. After being thoroughly convinced what produced smut, the inquiry by what operation it could be prevented, presented itself to my mind. I first caused ten bushels of wheat, grown in a crop of which nearly one-half was smut, to be washed in pure spring water just drawn, which was done under my direction, by pouring the wheat from the bushel very slowly into the water. Most of the grains infected floated, and were removed from the tubs by the skimmer; then caused the wheat thus prepared by washing to be sown through the centre of a field of forty acres, which was seeded by direction of my father with the smut crop, from which I had the ten bushels mentioned as washed, taken. The result of the succeeding crop was, so far as the ten bushels were used, with but slight infection on the borders adjoining the wheat not washed—pure wheat—while the balance of the field was, as previously, infected fully to the amount of one-half. Any operation by which the grains of smut are removed or pulverized, will prevent smut—so, also, the use of any agent which will destroy the life of the worm or insect, when in the worm or insect state, will prevent smut.

Respectfully,

BRAXTON DAVENPORT.

For the Southern Planter.

EXPERIMENTS IN USING LIME AND SALT, AND THE RELATIVE VALUE OF PERUVIAN GUANO AND KETTLEWELL'S SALTS.

[Selected from the papers of the Nottoway Club.]

Mr. President,—The following experiments were made by the request of the Club: The first to test the expediency of using lime and salt on our lands. The land selected for this experiment I thought needed lime as much as any on my plantation, or in my neighborhood, as it was not originally very good, is quite sandy, and is disposed to produce sheep-sorrel. It was worn out many years ago, permitted to grow up in pine, again cleared and again exhausted. I have improved it, and it is now a pretty good tobacco lot. On eight acres of this lot I applied oyster-shell lime at the rate of 25 bushels to the acre, at a cost of about 14½ cents per bushel, and one bushel of salt per acre, at the price of 26 cents per bushel. Say for lime per acre \$3 62, and for salt 26 cents—making \$3 88 per acre. The lot was fallowed for wheat in August, 1852. In September I sowed one bushel of salt to the acre, and dressed it with 25 bushels of lime to the acre. Both were dragged in. The wheat was sowed about the 10th of October, and dragged in. The salt and lime, of course, remained near the surface. As to the result, I have to report

that I could perceive no difference in the color or growth of the wheat during the winter and spring, nor any difference in the product when it matured, although there were strips of land left unplowed through the lot. Possibly its good effects may be seen hereafter.

The second experiment was made to test the relative value of Peruvian guano and Kettlewell's salts, and the profit or loss from the use of them. In the fall of 1852 I selected three adjoining acres of land which had been in corn. On the first I applied 200 lbs. of Peruvian guano, at a cost of \$4 53, freight included. On the second I applied 200 lbs. of Kettlewell's salts, which is a combination of bone-dust and Peruvian guano, at a cost of \$3 97, freight included. On the third I applied nothing. The last acre was rather the best, and the third, or guanoed acre, the most indifferent of the three, although there was no great difference in them. I sowed on each of these acres one bushel of wheat on the 29th of November. On the first the guano and wheat were turned under together with a single plough. On the second the wheat was turned under; the salts were then sowed and dragged in. As to results. The first, or guanoed acre, is to be credited for 8 bushels and 20 lbs. of wheat, at \$1, making \$8 33, and for straw and chaff, say \$1 50, which added to the above, makes \$9 83, and to be charged for rent of land, guano and interest on guano, seed wheat, getting in seed wheat, cutting, shocking, threshing, freight and selling—amounting to \$9 78—leaving a profit of only 5 cents on the acre. The acre dressed with salts is to be credited for 6 bushels and 50 lbs. of wheat, at \$1, making \$6 83, and for straw and chaff, say \$1 40, which added to the above, makes \$8 23, and to be charged for rent of land, cost of salts and interest, seed wheat, cutting, shocking, threshing, freight and selling—amounting to \$8 18—leaving a profit of only 5 cents on the acre. The third, or unimproved acre, is to be credited for 6 bushels and 5 lbs. of wheat, at \$1, making \$6 05, and for straw and chaff, say \$1 25, which added to the above, makes \$7 33, and to be charged for rent of land, seed wheat, cutting, threshing, freight and selling, amounting to \$3 71—leaving a profit on the unimproved acre of \$3 62½, from which amount deduct 5 cents, the profit on the first and second acres, and there will remain \$3 57½—showing a loss of that amount per acre by the use of guano or Kettlewell's salts. Supposing the land to produce without guano 6 bushels of wheat and to net, after paying all expenses \$3 50 per acre, there will be no net profit by the use of guano at \$45 35 the short ton and wheat at \$1 per bushel, unless it increases the product 6 bushels per acre, *i. e.* brings the product up to 12 bushels per acre. All over 12 bushels per acre may be considered net profit. The less liability of loss from rust, the improved quality of the wheat, and the improved condition of the land by the use of guano, are not estimated in the above.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM IREY.

September 8, 1853.

Lord Spencer, celebrated for his fine blooded cattle, said that he had observed that the worse bred the female is, the more likely is the offspring to resemble a well bred sire; and that he should practically prefer a cow of no breed, to an indifferent pure bred cow, for a good thoroughbred bull.

For the Southern Planter.

ABRAM RENICK AND HIS SHORT-HORNS.— THE SPRINGFIELD (OHIO) CATTLE SHOW. WEIGHTS OF THE SHORT-HORNS.

Mr. Editor.—I promised in my last, to write an article about "Abram Renick and his Short-Horns." As it is fashionable at present to have "clean hands," I will remark, before describing this herd of cattle, that I have at different times purchased several animals of Abram Renick, and his brother James, who lives near him; and may be considered an interested or prejudiced party; but I think the very fact of my going to the Renicks, when I wish to buy a really fine animal, is the very best evidence I could give, that I consider their cattle superior. Nor is it necessary for me, or any person else, to write up his stock. The demand for them is greater than the production, and when I was at his house in September, he had nothing to sell. The last bull calf had been engaged to some Ohio men, before it came, and his heifer calves he would not sell, as he wishes to increase the number of his breeding stock. I can say the same thing for myself—that I have at this time nothing for sale, and will have nothing but bull calves, for some time. Thoroughbred bull calves sold readily in this county during the present year, at one hundred dollars each, and the demand was such that I was requested by some friends to buy some for them in Kentucky, which I did, and bought five bulls and three heifers of the Renicks. I do not intend this as a sort of puff advertisement of "Abram Renick and his Short-Horns;" his cattle do not require it, and he is the last man to request it, for a more honorable and high minded man does not breathe. I shall write merely what I feel is due both to the man and his herd; for I doubt very much whether there is another such a herd, taken as a whole, in the Union. Besides, I saw on his farm at my last visit, and at previous ones, some animals, bred by himself, which were superior to any imported animal that I have ever seen. In addition, he has, in my opinion, bred more highly superior bulls, than any man in Kentucky; and I have never, in rambling about over Kentucky, met with one of his bulls that was not a good getter. Such a breeder is invaluable to a State, and is, I think, a benefactor. So far, then, from advocating his cattle from interest, I advocate them from admiration of Abram Renick, as a man, and as a judge and breeder of Short-Horns. It was seeing his cattle at the Bourbon show in 1849, that induced me to seek his acquaintance; and when I went to his farm, after the show, I found that the few shown by him was nothing more than a fair sample of the whole. So much, by way of preface, and I will now tell you where he lives, and the kind of cattle he rears.

Abram Renick, then, lives in Clark county, not far from the Bourbon line, and about three miles from Clintonville, (Bourbon county,) which is his post office. The farm on which he lives, is the one on which his father, who moved from the South Branch of the Potomac, in Virginia, settled, on going to Kentucky, about the year 1800, and which was a canebrake at the time he purchased it. Abram Renick, being the youngest of the sons, inherited the home place, containing about 350 acres, and in quality, I suppose, equal to any land in Kentucky. His father was a breeder of fine stock, and brought his sons up to the same bu-

business. He was the brother of Mr Felix Renick, the agent who selected the Ohio company's stock in England in 1834, and was also a member of the Company. Abram Renick, at the sale of the Company in 1836, purchased Matchem (Number 2283 in the Herd Book) and the yearling heifer Illustrious—the first at \$1,200, and the last at \$775. He afterwards purchased Paragon of the West, (Number 4649 in the Herd Book,) at a cost of \$1500. As I have never seen the pedigree of a bull in the Planter, I will thank you to insert that of Paragon of the West, as it is recorded in the fourth volume of the Herd Book, page 347:

(4649).—Paragon of the West. Roan, calved May 15, 1835, bred by the Ohio Company, United States of America—got by Duke of York (1941); d. Rose of Sharon, bred by Thomas Bates, by Belvedere, (1706); g. d. Red Rose the fifth, by Second Hubback, (1423); gr. g. d. Red Rose the second, by His Grace, (311); gr. gr. g. d. Red Rose the first, by Yarborough, (705); gr. gr. g. d., bred by R. Colling, and own sister to R. Colling's Red Rose by Favourite, (252); gr. gr. gr. g. d. by Punch, (531); gr. gr. gr. g. d. by Foljambe, (263); gr. gr. gr. g. d. by Hubback, (319.) The Collings had several families of Short-Horns, which were very much superior to the balance of their herds; and they were the Lady Maynard, the Dairy, and Duchess tribes, belonging to Charles Colling, and the Princess, the Wildair, and Red Rose, belonging to Robert Colling. Paragon of the West combines the best blood of nearly all of them, as any one will see who will take the trouble to run out his pedigree. And they will find that the pedigrees of the Short-Horns are as carefully recorded, and as much to be relied upon, as are those of the high bred race horses in the Stud Book.

The cow, Rose of Sharon, was selected by Mr. Felix Renick as the best in Bates' herd, and he paid more for her than any cow he imported. She died before the Company's sale, leaving a yearling heifer, Lady of the Lake, by Reformer, (2505) and a sucking bull calf, Paragon of the West, (4649.) Abram Renick also purchased Thames, a daughter of Lady of the Lake, got by Sakspeare, (No. 12,062) and two daughters of Thames, (Rose and Dorothy,) got by Prince Charles, the second. At a subsequent sale of the Company, he purchased the imported heifer Harriet, got by the Princess bull, Young Waterloo, (2817,) bred by Bates. The next best cow, selected by Felix Renick, in his opinion, was Josephine, bred by Mr. Whittaker, and got by Norfolk, (2377.) James Renick purchased two heifers out of Josephine; Nonpareil, got by Comet Halley (1855,) (sold at the Company's sale for \$2,500,) and Lady Harrison, got by imported bull Rover, (5015,) bred by Mr. Paley. His herd combines the blood of Stevenson, Bates, Whittaker, Crofton and Paley, all breeders of first class Short-Horns.

Mr. A. B. Allen, editor of the "American Agriculturist," and a first rate judge, thus describes this stock: "Mr. Felix Renick resides on a fine bottom farm, with some hill lands, about four miles below Chillicothe; his stock of full bloods is not large, but mostly very fine. Josephine, an imported cow, has taken the first premium at the cattle fair for the last three years. Out of her, he has three excellent calves, one of which, Nonpareil, two years old, has already taken two premiums. His bull Rover, was bred by Wm. F. Paley, Esq., and imported in 1836. He is large, with a well

set, arched neck, full over the shoulders, long in the barrel, and the very best handler for a male, I ever touched." See letter from the West, No. 7, July number of the Albany Cultivator, 1841.

It will be seen that he commenced right, by purchasing first rate animals, and in his breeding he has confined himself to bulls descended from these families. He bred from Illustrious, the bulls Franklin, (3834), by Matchem, (2283) Young Comet Halley by Comet Halley, (1855), and Ashland, (11,122), by Paragon of the West, (4649.) From Lady Harrison, he bred a bull, which was purchased by Capt. Ben. Warfield, called "Renick," and Buena Vista, by Cossack, (3503.) This last was two years old in 1849, when I first saw him. I thought him then the finest animal I had ever seen, and I have seen nothing since to compare with him. I looked upon him then, and do now, as the very "beau ideal of his species." He has bred his cattle pretty close, that is, putting near relations together, such as half brother and sister. Most breeders are opposed to breeding when there is any relationship; I am not. And in the hands of such a breeder as Abram Renick, if they will examine his herd, they will find that it gives great uniformity and evenness to the various animals, and that uniformity one of excellence. Most of his cows were got by Ashland and Buena Vista, and are descended from Thames and Harriet. This last brought him sixteen calves. The bull Belvedere, which he is now using, was got by "Renick," out of an Ashland cow, and she descended from Harriet. I would rather own him than any bull in Kentucky, and this on account of his superior handling. If there is any animal superior to him in the touch, I would ride a long ways to "feel him." He keeps him in a blue grass lot, of about two acres; and in the adjoining field his cows are pastured. There were some twenty head, large and beautiful, and the most even lot I ever saw. They are all good, but the gem of the herd is Duchess, got by Buena Vista, and out of Rose, and gr. gr. granddaughter of the Rose of Sharon. She had a most beautiful heifer calf by her side, got by the imported bull, John O'Gaunt, (11,621.) He also showed me some yearling heifers, got by Renick, for which he has been offered tempting prices. They were fine, as are all the get of Renick. I have never seen a bad animal got by him, and he is the sire of a great many, for he is now eight years old. Renick was out of Lady Harrison, by her own brother, "Tippecanoe." But instead of giving you a description of his bulls and heifers, I will give you the ages and weights of steers, bred and fed by him at different times.

About the year 1842, when Short-Horns got so low, Mr. Renick altered a thoroughbred calf, got by Franklin, (3834) and out of Harriet. He was precisely four years and seven months old, when killed, and weighed net, the four quarters, after being driven ninety miles to Cincinnati, 1,968. This, I have no doubt, was the best steer ever killed in the United States, and none of those whose weights are recorded in Youatt's Treatise on Cattle, come up to him at the same age. Mr. Renick told me that this was not a large looking steer, and that his weight was produced by his being covered all over with fat. Every point was ripe. Another, four years and six months, not thoroughbred, killed at same time, weighed net, 1,776. In 1851, he sold four steers, two of which were five, and two, four years old, and a barren heifer, four years old. The following are the live and dead

weights: the tare of the four quarters' only, No. 1, live weight, 2,772, net 1,828. No. 2, live weight, 2,526, net 1,670. No. 3, live weight, 2,280, net 1,404. No. 4, live weight, 2,100, net 1,320. Heifer's live weight, 1,778, net 1,102. Three of these were got by Ashland, and two by Cossack; the steers were the refuse of his calves, for he never keeps any for bulls, unless they are right in every respect. I will now give you the live weight of ten head, which he sold in the fall of 1852. Two of them were five years old, four of them four, and four of them three years old. They weighed 2,672, 2,530, 2,250, 2,244, 2,096, 2,054, 1,994, 1,988, 1,964, 1,870. The cow, Thames, mentioned above, which had ceased breeding, live weight, 1,754. I cannot give you the net weight of these last, as they were taken to New York. He received \$100 each for the ten head. Last spring he sold another lot of ten, to go to New York, which were not weighed; he sold them at \$100 each, and they were estimated to weigh in New York, 1,400 net. One-half were four, and the other half three years old, last spring. If you will make the calculation, you will find that those whose net weights are given, lost but little more than one-third of their live weight; and this without counting hide and tallow, and that the steer, which weighed 1,968, gained nearly 1½ lbs. net weight for every day he was old. Cattle must be of a high order of excellence to do this. Their offal, such as heads, necks, tails, legs, haunches, &c., must be small, and the prime parts, such as briskets, crops, chine, rumps, thighs, ribs, &c., must be fine. The great art of breeding is to reduce the offal and low priced pieces of beef, and increase the prime parts. I saw these steers, except the two first, often; and they were uniform and alike in appearance. They showed, both in their forms and order, that they had been bred and fed by a man who was master of his business. The whole herd excel, particularly in their briskets and loins, two of the most important points in all animals intended for grazing. They are all fine handlers, with long mossy coats and mellow hides.

The above is my candid opinion of this noble herd, the best by far, taken altogether, that I ever saw. I have seen larger *looking* cattle, but I have never seen any that were *heavier to weigh*, or that would return more, or as much profit, at less cost and in less time, and this I consider the great object to be sought by all breeders. I never could conceive that extraordinary size was to be desired in any domestic animal, unless it was obtained without extraordinary labor and expense of food.

Bulls bred by the Renicks are scattered all over Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, and several have been brought to this county. The young bull, which I spoke of, as having taken the premium as a yearling at Lexington, was bred by Abram Renick, and is owned by Geo. M. Bedford of Bourbon. He is called "Bucyrus." He was shown at the Bourbon show, shortly afterwards, and again won, beating a bull called Syrius, which was just imported by the Scott County Company, and which sold a few days afterwards for \$3,500. He was then taken to the great National Show at Springfield, Ohio, and in competition with the best cattle from New York, Ohio and Indiana, received the second premium. I left at your office, when in Richmond, a list of the premiums at Springfield. You will see that Kentucky came out victorious, winning the first premium on aged bulls, the first on two year olds, and the

second on yearling bulls. She won the first on aged cows, the second on two year old heifers, and the first on yearling heifers. The cow which took the premium in Ohio, was at both the Lexington and Bourbon shows, and beaten at both shows. She is a large, fine, stylish cow, and her being beaten in Kentucky, should make nothing against her, for she certainly had a "hard road to travel." But I have said enough on this subject. You must try and go out next fall to the Lexington show, and judge for yourself. If you cannot go out to Kentucky, come up here, and we will show you some good samples of Mr. Renick's herd. I am in hopes, however, that you will go to Kentucky. I think I can promise you a hearty welcome. And if you will go up to Abram Renick's, you will see what skill and judgment will effect in breeding cattle.

I was at James Renick's several times, and saw there also some first rate animals. There is very little difference in the herds of the two brothers. They have used the same bulls, and their cattle in quality are equal. Lady Harrison is at James Renick's, the dam, no doubt, of more really fine animals, than any cow in Kentucky. Mr. Renick has been unfortunate in her produce, as she has had all bull calves, with one exception, and this heifer died without having any calves. It is always a great pleasure to me to visit the Renicks, and ramble with them over their beautiful farms, looking at and examining their fine herds, which they have raised to a point of excellence, equalled by few, and, in my opinion, surpassed by none in this country.

As I will not have an opportunity of writing another article for your paper soon, I will give you the weights of some Short-Horns. You will probably recollect that I told you in the September number, that I would give you in another article, the weights of Short-Horns at different periods down to the present time, in order to show you "that they are not a breed of yesterday, liable and likely to degenerate to-morrow."

"In 1799, Charles Colling sold a three year old heifer, which weighed net 1,400 lbs. [See Berry's first history, 1801.] The Durham ox, bred by Charles Colling and shown as a curiosity, was thought to weigh at five years old, 2,352 lbs.; his live weight being 3,024 lbs.; and this extraordinary weight did not arise from superior size, but from the excessive ripeness of his points. At ten years old, live weight, 3,780 lbs.; carcass supposed to weigh 3,080 lbs."

"In the year 1808, Mr. Bailey, the agricultural historian of Durham, informs us he saw at Mr. Mason's, (of Chilton,) a cow, not less remarkable in point of fat than the Durham ox. At that time the depth of fat from the rumps to the hips, in a perpendicular position, was not less than twelve inches, and the shoulder score at least nine inches thick."

"Mr. Robert Colling's heifer, which was also exhibited as a curiosity, was estimated at four years old to weigh 1,820 lbs. net."

"The same gentleman sold a two year old steer in Darlington market, which weighed net 924 lbs."

"At Mr. Nesham's, Mr. Bailey saw a steer twenty-five months old, completely covered with fat over the whole carcass, and supposed to be the fattest steer of his age ever seen. Neither of the last mentioned were of large size, and would not have weighed above 560 lbs., had they been no fatter than those usually slaughtered."

"Mr. Wetherel sold, in Darlington, 1810, two

steers under three years old, which weighed 1,330 lbs. each."

"A twin heifer, belonging to Mr. Arrowsmith, gained thirty stones, (420 lbs.) in thirty weeks."

Mr. Mason, (of Chilton,) in an experiment to ascertain the weight of beef, gained by the food given, (turnips,) found three steers, under three years old, to have gained twenty stones (280 lbs.) each, in twenty weeks. The steers averaged 980 lbs. each."

"In 1816, Mr. Nesham's steer, three and a half years old, obtained the premium offered by the Durham Agricultural Society; his weight was, the four quarters, 1,347 lbs. the four quarters; tallow, 152 lbs.; hide, 112 lbs."

"Major Rudd's steer, slaughtered when three years and thirteen days old, weighed, the four quarters, 1,344 lbs."

The late Mr. Robertson, of Berwick-upon-Tweed, furnished the following particulars of Short-Horns, bred by him, and fed, with few exceptions, on vegetable food:

1794.—"An ox, four years, ten months old, four quarters, 2,030 lbs.; tallow, 343 lbs. A steer, under four years old, four quarters, 1,484 lbs; tallow, 273 lbs."

1814.—"A steer, three years, nine months old, four quarters, 1,414 lbs; tallow, 210 lbs."

1815.—"A steer, three years, eleven months old, four quarters, 1,572 lbs.; tallow, 364 lbs. A heifer, three years, eight months old, four quarters, 1,246 lbs."

1817.—"A steer, three years, two months old, four quarters, 1,340 lbs.; tallow, 245 lbs."

1822.—"An ox, four years and a half old, four quarters, 1,890 lbs.; tallow, 294 lbs. Own brother to the foregoing, three years and a half old, four quarters, 1,862 lbs; tallow, 294 lbs. A steer three years, eight months old, four quarters, 1,568 lbs.; tallow not weighed."

"A steer, bred by Col. Cook, two years and twenty-two days old, fed on potatoes and straw, was slaughtered; his four quarters weighed 1,008 pounds."

1823.—Mr. John Rennie fed a steer from eighteen to twenty months old, the four quarters of which weighed 945 lbs."

"The same gentleman fed a steer, aged two years and four months, whose four quarters weighed 1,231 lbs.; also, a steer aged three years and six months, whose four quarters weighed 1,369 lbs.; tallow, 241 lbs."

"Should the foregoing statement be considered extended, it will at least be admitted that its ample detail establishes the credit of the Short-Horns as an invaluable breed to the grazier." For the above weights, see Youatt's *Trestise on Cattle*.

That the Short-Horns of the present day get as fat as any of the above are described to be, I refer you to Garrard's and Stevenson's letters, extracts from which you will find in the September number of the *Planter*, to the weights of Mr. Rennie's steers, given above, and to the following weights of steers, which I saw in Kentucky: Mr. Charles J. Innes showed three steers at the Bourbon and Lexington shows, fall of 1850, which weighed 2,790, 2,740, and 2,710 lbs. each. They would have averaged net, about 1,800 lbs. These were five years old. He had in all thirty-nine head, and the average live weight of the thirty-nine, was 2,315 lbs., and the whole would have averaged net about 1,500 lbs. Half of them five, and half four years old.

The same year Mr. James G. Kinnaird's steer, five years old, weighed, live weight, 2,580 lbs.; net weight, 1,735 lbs.—losing less than one-third. Mr. Kinnaird, fall of 1849, sold the steer which took the premium at the Bourbon show, to go to Cincinnati. He was not weighed alive; he weighed net, in Cincinnati, 1,900 lbs. He was four years and six months old. At the Lexington show, 1850, Mr. E. G. Bedford's steer, three years old, weighed 2,464 lbs. He would have weighed net about 1,643 lbs. Mr. T. Hughes' steer, two years old, live weight, 2,074 lbs. He would have weighed net about 1,383 lbs.

I might enlarge upon this subject, and fill a whole number of your paper, with weights of the Short-Horns. But I think I have written enough to prove that they are an ancient and superior race of animals. In Kentucky, if they wish to improve the quick feeding of their stock, they invariably resort to the Short-Horn bull. He always stamps his form and color upon the produce, which is proof of their long, high breeding.

Your paper will, I suppose, be taken up for sometime with the awards of premiums at the State Show, and with the essays; and you will not need an article from me for sometime. I will try, if you wish it, to write you an article on breeding stock, sometime during the winter.

Truly Yours,

ALEX. S. MATHEWS.

Wylhe County, November 10th, 1854.

For the Southern Planter.

COL. JOSIAH WM. WARE AGAIN.

Mr. Editor,—I fully designed mine, in your September number, to be the last, and will now only correct some errors in your comments. I will not raise the question as to how far an editor can, with propriety, publish a letter marked "private," as in this case it was of no importance, the purport of it being in my communication. "I claim the right to object to any improper course in any paper to which I am a subscriber, as do other subscribers—I will not use the word "patrons," as it seems offensive when used—it was as editors use that word to denote their subscribers. If wrong, I was led into the error by editors; nor could the word "patrons" mean myself only, but all your subscribers who owned the Cotswolds or Short-Horns. You could hardly have understood it otherwise. I see no objection yet to a private letter on the business of your paper. Very few communications, I expect, are sent to an editor without a private note, and I apprehend if you continue long editor of a public journal you will have to get out of your thin skinned notions, that you are to wrap yourself in the mantle of royalty and "not be approached in a private note." I know of nothing that elevates you so far above other editors. If your paper is a *private* one you have a right to throw impediments in the way of a free discussion, even then not by ascribing motives of interest. Now, sir, my whole motive in expressing myself frankly to you was the interest I felt in the *Southern Planter*, its success as an agricultural journal, there were so few in the State, through which farmers could have an interchange of sentiment, and on this account only I offered my advice. It was rejected, with motives of selfishness insultingly ascribed. Now that advice was not to praise or advocate Cotswolds or

Short-Horns or any other breed, but that if you wished to commend any particular breed, to show to the farming interest its peculiar qualities and profits, and let the others alone. Was it wrong to give such advice? Was it wrong advice? Who will say so? In the whole discussion you misunderstood (it is harsh to say *perverted*) my feelings, wishes and intentions. I never designed to influence your course, or directly or indirectly, or in any other way "threatened to compel your silence or commendation;" and no man, even by contortion, can make either my communication or my private note justly bear such construction. It exists only in your disposition towards me. It was only my advice, solely for the good of the paper, and I truly stated in your September number that your commendation was not sought. I did appreciate your judgment as you seem to do yourself. Your education and associations led me to expect at least a courteous course, and I confess that in that respect I was "disappointed in my man."

Now as to the "puff to mislead the public." As this charge is made, I earnestly ask the public attention to this fact. My calculations were made on the sales of *yearling part bred muttons alone* to the butcher at rates that they sell at every year—the butchers coming from one to three hundred miles to purchase, and at such rates as they are willing to make *standing bargains* at, and this for *consumption* only—not even including the wool, which always gives as much or more money to the fleece than any other sheep, carefully leaving out of the calculation all sales of animals that had passed to two years old, and all sales for breeding purposes. Now could a calculation be made more to the *disadvantage* of the Cotswold? And can any other breed of sheep produce such a state of things? Can there be any "puff or misleading of the public mind" in this? Now look at your mode of calculation, April number, page 115, column 1, of a gentleman "starting two years ago with a flock of 530 sheep," "up to August last had sold the *wool* and *increase of the flock* for \$3600—(italics mine.) This of both *wool* and for *breeding purposes*, both of which left out by me as likely to mislead, and thus be unfair in calculation, because such sales vary and are too dependent on too many circumstances to be relied on each year. Did that gentleman sell all his (that he sold for *breeding purposes*) as high each as the *butcher* gave me for my *yearling part breds* for *slaughtering*? Suppose I had taken into my calculation my sales for wool and breeding purposes and the sale of ten of my sheep in *one year*, and my yearling part bred muttons together, would have (*even without the wool*) given me more money than you instance in the *two years* from the whole 530 sheep in sales of *both wool and produce*. Even the 30 ewes you instance as sold (*without counting wool or lambs*) brought almost as much in *one year* as the 530 sheep you instance, *with their increase* and wool, brought in either year of the *two*. But was that a fair way to show to the farmer the general and certain profits from sheep? I think not. Sales for consumption alone is the only fair way, unless the whole calculation is of profit on wool; and surely you would not compare the profits on wool against wool and mutton both, of Cotswolds, when each fleece of the latter will bring more money than that of the former, and the *mutton* of the Cotswold will sell for five times as much as the *fleece* of the other. Now what intelligent reader of your journal, farmer or not, will not see that I, who have based my calculations solely on

consumption at prices that *part bred yearlings* bring every year from butchers that come from 100 to 300 miles to purchase, have taken great pains to avoid "misleading the public mind by puffs," while you, by instancing sales for breeding purposes and wool that may and will vary every year, are endeavoring to accomplish the very purpose of "misleading the public mind by puffs" that you charge me with. A fine "protection," truly. You give them such as the wolf would give to the lamb. In this the public seems to need protection, not by, but from you.

You speak of your sale of ram lambs to the butcher for three dollars before he ever saw them, and abated fifty cents because you thought it an over estimate, no doubt. You were right—while \$6 50 is *refused* here for *part bred lambs* after the butcher saw them. You at a city, we at least 100 miles off, over which our butcher has to pay transportation. Now which to the farmer is the *most profitable* breed, by your own showing? Need I ask such a question? Your statements of my dealings in sheep shows lamentable ignorance, but as it cannot be of much interest to the public, I must decline wasting time on it. Dealers with me will see your errors and know whether I have dealt liberally with them or not, and as far as yourself is concerned—think as you please—I do not consider it of any consequence, as I cannot consent to manage my matters to please you. But Mr. Morrell as authority about Cotswold sheep! This is rich. When his book was prepared no Cotswold sheep had been imported, and most probable he had never seen one; certainly knew nothing about them. I doubt even to this day if he ever owned or even saw a thoroughbred—and he as authority about Cotswold sheep against the best breeders in England, even before you were born! Pshaw—is this not trifling with the intelligence of your readers?

I frequently purchase mixed bred and part bred ewes—sometimes in numbers of ten, twenty and thirty at a time, for various reasons. Gentlemen, not willing to go to the prices for thoroughbreds, wishing only to raise muttons, request me to do so for them. I put such with my imported buck before going away. I charge nothing for his services or my attention. I charge nothing and make nothing by them, and frequently buy them and common ewes to raise muttons from for sale and for my own use, (thoroughbreds are too costly to alter,) and I shall continue to do so. If gentlemen wish such, they can be supplied.

Now as to grazing sheep. They were hardly mistaken as to seven to the acre, but probably not in the way of your idea of grazing—"sheep chewing up running briars by the yard"—but as *they* graze their cattle, not turn them on their grass lands until the grass is well up. I am willing to believe with you that seven of your breed of rambling, "active sheep" would not do well on that land, for it takes food to sustain the rambling that tramples over the grass, and thus injures, as well as consumes the grass, but the Cotswolds are "sluggish," not "active sheep"—fill themselves and lay down and ruminate like cattle—have great propensity to fat, and instead of rambling off their food convert it into fat. I cannot yield their judgment to either your theory or judgment, as you may choose to call it, and I really think had you seen the *yearlings* that left here this summer and fall and the pastures they were taken from, so burnt from drought that it would have puzzled you to form an idea as to what they fed on—bought by

the butcher (without having been fed one mouthful of grain) at \$8 50 each—it would have shaken even your faith in *your own* opinion of their profits to the farmer.

JOSIAH WM. WARE,

Near Berryville, Clarke County, Virginia.
October, 1854.

GUANO FOR MELONS.—We had a very fine melon patch which was well nigh destroyed by the striped bug. The vines had just commenced running, and in two or three days, the bugs had stripped nearly every leaf. As a desperate remedy, we applied a handful of guano on top of the hill, under the running vines, sifting on the hill as far as the vines had run, taking care that it did not fall on the leaf. In twenty-four hours not a bug was to be seen; the vines had assumed a healthy and vigorous appearance, and are now loaded with fruit. This experiment was not on one vine only, but hundreds.





THE SOUTHERN PLANTER.


RICHMOND, DECEMBER, 1854.


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 If subscribers do not order a discontinuance of the Planter before the commencement of a new year, or volume, it will be considered as a renewal of their subscriptions, and they will be charged accordingly.

 Postage on the Southern Planter, (when paid in advance,) to any part of the United States one cent and a half per quarter, or six cents per annum.

TO OUR READERS.

With this number closes the 14th Volume of the Planter and another year of our editorial career. Gratifying evidence of the favorable estimation in which our labors have been held is afforded by a steadily progressive increase in the number of our subscribers, and also of an awakened interest in the topics to the discussion of which our pages are devoted—by the large number and variety of original communications which grace its pages—communications which, for ability and practical utility, will compare favorably with those of any journal of like character in this country. We would gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to the friends who have so kindly aided us, and would add, that if this paper is destined to win its way to a more general acceptance—a more enlarged circulation and a wider sphere of usefulness, it will be under the continued favor of its friends in furnishing, in larger measure, this chief element of its success, as a vehicle of useful and entertaining matter. We would, therefore, in conclusion, say to our good friends, write! write!! write!!!

JOURNAL OF TRANSACTIONS OF THE VIRGINIA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Just published and for sale at the Southern Planter office. Price 50 cents a copy, neatly bound.

The above work contains, besides the regular proceedings of the Executive Committee, the following Premium Experiments and Essays:

Essay on the Theory and Laws of Rotation of Crops, by Edmund Ruffin.

Essay on the Analysis of Marls in lower Virginia, by Professor William Gilham of the Virginia Military Institute.

Experiment to Test the Effects (in profit or loss) of the Usual Mode of Saving Corn Podder, &c. by Edmund Ruffin, Jr.

Experiment to Test the Action of Lime as Manure above the Falls of the Tide-water Rivers of Virginia, on Different Soils, by Commodore Thomas Ap C. Jones.

Experiment in the Tillage of Indian Corn, by Commodore Thomas Ap C. Jones.

Experiments on the Benefits and Products of Guano, compared to Costs, by Thomas Jones, Jr.

Experiments with Tide Marsh Mud as Manure, by John R. Bryan.

Experiments with Sulphate of Barytes as a Manure, by Robert R. Barton, M. D.

Essay on Enriching and Improving Worn-Out Lands, by Commodore Thomas Ap Catesby Jones.

Essay on the Properties and Value of the Southern Pea, or Cornfield Pea, by P. M. Edmondston.

Essay on the Treatment and Management of Milch Cows, by Lewis Bailey.

Mr. F. N. WATKINS, of Farmville, Prince Edward county, Virginia, is a permanent Agent for the Southern Planter.

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE PAPERS OF THE NOTTOWAY CLUB.

We are indebted to the above Association for a mass of useful matter, the production of which is owing to an excellent rule of the Club requiring each member to furnish an original essay, or a written report of one or more experiments during the year. An admirable expedient to overcome the almost universal repugnance of farmers to writing, and to show with what force and effect they can generally express themselves when under the pressure of unavoidable necessity. We wish we had the power to impose some such obligation upon every intelligent farmer in Virginia. We should thereby indefinitely enlarge the common stock of useful agricultural knowledge, and secure to each writer such improved facility in the expression of his thoughts as would render it no longer a burden, but rather a pleasure to communicate them. We can at least commend this rule to universal adoption. The selections we have made are introduced at this time because they are deemed seasonable to the wants of those of our readers who may contemplate a change in their existing systems of rotation, as the time for commencing preparations for the corn crop is the appropriate season to remodel the subdivisions of the farm with reference to that object. We shall continue to give occasional selections from these papers, reserving their introduction to the seasons deemed most appropriate to a profitable consideration of their contents.

THE BEST SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT.

Mr. President.—Public attention is manifestly alive to the importance of improving the agricultural resources of Virginia. We live in an age of progress. Improvements are being rapidly made in all the departments of the arts and sciences. Rail roads and telegraphs are bringing into close proximity distant cities and countries. Machinery is lightening the burdens of manual labor by its adaptation and application to most of the industrial pursuits of man, and an increasing knowledge of chemistry is rendering all nature subservient to the wants and comforts of society. He who does not avail himself of those advantages in this *go-a-head* age will assuredly be left far in the distance by his more enterprising competitors in the race of improvement. We rejoice that the friends of agriculture are not idle spectators. While improvements are progressing in other departments of productive labor, "the cultivation of mother earth," the noblest, most important and useful of them all, the foundation and main spring of every other human pursuit, is not without its trophies of progress and improvement. Although no systematic plan has generally been adopted among us, it is encouraging to know that many are inquiring after the right way, and others are farming on principles which will ultimately result in successful achievement in the work of improving our farms, the necessity of which is apparent to us all. With the hope of eliciting inquiry and calling the attention of the Club

to the subject I propose to give my views (not our practice) on the best system of management, having regard to present profits and prospective improvement.

The capacity of soils to give remunerating returns for the capital and labor invested in agriculture depends mainly on the amount of organic and inorganic matter which they contain, their openness and friability, their capacity to imbibe the atmospheric influences, to receive and retain moisture to a given extent, and to part with it when redundant and excessive. To obtain all these desirable ends and to bring all these advantages to the aid of the farmer, the time-honored three-field rotation must be abandoned, with its no less venerable and destructive concomitant, hard grazing. This lies at the root of the matter. They are principals and accomplices in the great work of destruction, which have well nigh ruined our country, once the garden spot of the world, the Canaan of the whole earth.

It is not my purpose here to repeat all the objections to, and evils of, the three-field rotation, attended with hard grazing, for they are legion. I will, however, mention a few of them. And

First. Two exhausting grain crops in immediate succession, one a hoe crop, the cultivation of which requires the land to be frequently ploughed and kept clean by the use of the hoe—thus exposing the land to the injurious influences of our long summer suns and the washing of the heavy rains to which our climate is subject, must necessarily and rapidly exhaust both the organic and inorganic matter contained in our lands, by abstracting those principles necessary to mature the growing crop, and by evaporation and leaching, during the long period in which land is exposed to those influences.

Secondly. The three-field rotation (corn, unaccompanied with grazing,) does not afford time enough for the land in its present exhausted condition to throw up a sufficient crop of vegetation to remunerate for the supply of organic matter taken from it in the production of the two previous exhausting crops. Let us suppose, for a moment, (which is not fact,) that each severed crop is equally exhausting, and that the crop of grass the year of rest is equal to the draft on the land in the production of one of the exhausting crops, in the three years rotation, there still remains to be supplied the organic matter which was taken up from the land to grow and perfect the other severed crop, to say nothing of the waste of the inorganic matter of the soil to which it had been exposed in the production of the two severed crops. It is manifest, therefore, that the term of rest should be lengthened sufficiently to restore to the land the full amount of inorganic and organic matter taken from it in the growth and perfection of the two preceding crops.

Under a judicious three-shift system, unaccompanied by grazing, it may be possible that a soil, originally good, should continue productive for a length of time, through the ameliorating effects of the heavy crop of vegetation during the years of rest, together with the benefits of protection from the baneful influences of the sun and the absence of close treading by the hoof. But this is not the custom of our farmers. Immediately after the small grain crop is removed, the fields thus heavily taxed by the production of two grain crops, are closely grazed by the stock of the farm, and, perhaps, of the neighborhood. And hence arises a third objection to the system under review, to wit: the closing up of the pores of the land and the destroying of its friability by excluding the fer-

tilizing influence of the atmosphere and greatly diminishing or entirely destroying the absorbing powers of the land.

Humus, that substance or principle, which agricultural chemists tell us, is so indispensably necessary in the constitution of productive soils and the vigorous growth of plants, is nothing more than the residuum of solid vegetable and animal substances, reduced by decomposition to a pabulum fitted to, and capable of, being taken up by the roots of growing plants through the agency of the atmosphere and water. Many plants are almost self-sustaining, deriving most of their growth and support from the atmosphere, while others, by their long tap-roots, strike deep into the subsoil and draw a large portion of their nutrition from depths beyond the reach of other plants. Thus a well clothed verdant field, untrodden and ungrazed, is by the appointment of Providence, silently selecting from the great storehouse of nature, food adapted to the growth and maturity of vegetation, by the death and decomposition, of which more fertilizing matter is returned to the land on which grew, than by its production, was taken from it. Grass and grain are the two great sources of national independence and individual wealth. No nation was ever long independent, happy and free, who neglected the one or despised the other. They are inseparably united by an all-wise Providence, and folly marks the conduct of those who would dissolve their union. Tillage exhausts the fertility of soils. Grass, indirectly, but certainly, restores it. The beneficial effects of inorganic or mineral manures are greatly increased by being turned in with large quantities of organic or vegetable matter. A field thus heavily covered with vegetation will bear a much larger application of lime or marl than if naked, and I doubt not but that every person present has witnessed and is ready to admit the same results from the application of guano and other putrescent manures, under like circumstances. I have heard the idea advanced, that stock were productive laborers, bringing home and depositing, at night, the fruits of their daily toil. This may be true, if my stock graze my neighbors' lands, but certainly false if they graze my own. If it is good economy to haul dead vegetable matter to our farm-pens and on our arable lands with the view of improving their productiveness, it is surely very injudicious to graze off the growing vegetation, absorbing as it does from the atmosphere through its leaves and bringing up by its roots from the subsoil fertilizing materials, which, by its decomposition, would be returned to the land on which it was grown. Clover, lucern, peas, buckwheat and many other members of the vegetable kingdom, deriving their principal support from the atmosphere and the subsoil and clay, costs the farmer nothing but space on which to grow, and protection from depredation of the tooth and hoof.

In conformity with these views it is my intention immediately to divide my farm into four shifts of one hundred acres each, and from each of these fields to set apart twenty acres for tobacco lots, all to be enclosed by a strong, substantial ring fence. Dividing fences will be dispensed with, in view of economizing labor and timber, and of guarding at the same time against injurious grazing. I shall then have eighty acres, or 278,724 hills in corn, planted five feet by two and a half; and twenty acres, or 80,000 hills, in tobacco, the usual distance. It is my intention to enclose a part of my farm for a standing pasture and rigidly to exclude all stock

from the arable land through the first rotation. Every appliance within the means of the farmer should be used to improve each field for corn and tobacco. Particular attention should be paid to farm-pen and compost manures, together with a liberal outlay in lime, plaster, bone-dust and guano, as on these mainly depends the success of the system. Every portion of the field in small grain should be seeded in clover or such other cultivated grasses as may be adapted to the varying quality of the land, until the entire farm is set in grass. Ten efficient hands and six working horses are thought sufficient to cultivate the foregoing crops well and leave ample time for the improvement of the farm and for other minor incidental duties and labors.

The tobacco lots should be made rich enough to produce a crop averaging a pound for every four hills, or 20,000 lbs., and the corn shifts raised to that state of fertility that will insure an abundant supply of grain and provender for the use of the farm. The four-field rotation is preferred to the three, as being less scouring, and for other reasons as stated above; and to the five-shift rotation, because requiring less land and labor to carry it into successful operation. It is also less exhausting than the five-field system, with an intermediate fallow crop, and it is believed will more speedily resuscitate our exhausted lands. It will not reduce the area of our cultivated fields to the same extent as the five-field rotation will do before we have by partial improvement enabled the fields thus reduced in size to meet the wants of the farmer by their increased productiveness.

I will here suggest a probable improvement on the foregoing, which is to add another twenty acre lot for tobacco, which will enable the farmer to fallow to that extent for wheat, or it may be used for truck patches or seeded to oats, as the circumstances of the farm may require. Oats, however, are a crop of but little value, and are only allowable, because our lands will not, in their present condition, supply an abundant crop of corn and provender for the use of the farm.

By strict attention to the above system there can be but little doubt that at the expiration of the rotation, the yearly production of the farm will have increased from fifteen to twenty per cent. with a good prospect of progressive improvement for all time to come.

I am aware, sir, that my opinions on the subject of stock are in conflict with the opinions of a majority of the Club. I will, however, take this occasion to say that in the present condition of middle Virginia, with exhausted fields and barren commons, stock raising, beyond the absolute wants and comforts of the family, is incompatible with the improvement of our lands, and to that extent is unprofitable to the farmer; for he who improves his stock at the expense of his land, is most assuredly sacrificing the greater to the lesser interest; and he who grazes his arable land to improve his stock, may please his eye and gratify his taste, but will impoverish his farm and lighten his purse. The farmer who enriches a field and incurs the expense of seeding it to clover or other grasses, and grazes hard by his stock, is guilty of as great folly, in my judgment, as an overseer I once knew who covered his tobacco lot with wheat straw, and then burnt it off for the sake of the ashes; he impoverishes an entire field to manure a few cow-pens.

This wise man has said "there is a time for all things," true; but the time for middle Virginia to

embark in the stock raising business has not arrived; our farms are too poor; our grass too short; our great staples are too high; we cannot, or will not, spare the time from the cultivation and management of our corn, wheat and tobacco, to follow the cows, fold the sheep and herd the swine. As soon would a Mississippi cotton grower or a Louisiana sugar planter devote the necessary time and attention to stock, to insure success, as a Virginia tobacco planter and wheat and corn grower. A reasonable supply of beef, butter and milk, mutton and pork, is all that we ought to expect from the present condition of our farms.

Respectfully,

A. A. CAMPBELL.

FIVE-FIELD ROTATION.

Mr. President,—In obedience to one of the rules of our Club, requiring a written statement of some experiment made during the year, or an essay, or the results of some operation, I would submit the following, showing the effects so far, of a change from the three-field rotation, first to the four and then to the five-field rotation. My farm, called Springfield, was cultivated on the three-field rotation, from the beginning of the year 1832, (and had been previous to that, to the time whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary,) to about 1843; from 1843 to 1852, on the four-field rotation; 1852 and 1853, on the five-field rotation. The largest crop of wheat made on the farm while on the three-field rotation, was about 400 bushels, and the largest crop of corn, 288 barrels; the largest crop of wheat made while under the four-field rotation, was 589½ bushels, and 250 barrels of corn. The crop of wheat of 1852, the first year of the five-field rotation, measured 1,083 bushels, and the crop of corn measured 291 barrels. The crop of wheat of the present year, the second on the five-field rotation, measured 1,053 bushels. The crop of corn of this year, will not fall much short of 275 barrels, though the corn field of this year is but little over half the surface it is designed to be hereafter. To recapitulate; the largest product of wheat on the three-field rotation, 400 bushels—largest on the four-field, 589½ bushels—the largest on the five-field rotation, 1,083 bushels—difference in favor of five-fields, as compared with three, 683 bushels; as compared with four, 494 bushels—results which clearly show to my mind the advantages of a long over a short rotation; and I feel entirely confident that a longer rotation still, will add still another increase to the main staples, corn and wheat, and should not diminish the amount of the tobacco crop, though it ought to diminish the surface cultivated, and that it will add in a still greater ratio to the value of the stock kept upon the farm.

W. R. BLAND.

Form the Germantown Telegraph.

SADDLE GALLS.

Mr. Editor,—“A merciful man,” says the scriptural adage, “is merciful to his beast.” But there is such a thing as one’s not being merciful sometimes, in consequence of not knowing how to be. A farmer has a horse, whose back is covered with wind-galls, but the good woman is out of meal, and Dobbin, as Burns says, “maun gang to mill.”

Wind, or saddle galls, as they are perhaps more correctly denominated, are of quite frequent occurrence on the backs of horses—almost as common, indeed, as corns on ladies’ feet; they admit, however, of an easy remedy. As soon as they appear, the animal’s back is thoroughly washed in cold water, and this operation is repeated, till the swellings disappear or are entirely dispersed. But should the application of the “simple element” not prove successful—as sometimes it *does* not—take one gill of sharp vinegar, one gill of spirits, of any kind, and one table spoonful of sweet oil; mix the whole well together, and rub the back till cured. In the management of the horse, a little care and observation, will often enable one to obviate serious evils. I have known horses—and valuable ones, too—rendered unserviceable for weeks, merely by neglecting to inspect their backs after a long and fatiguing drive on a hot day, and beneath a saddle “ill-fitted,” or too small.

Lower Dublin.

AGRICOLA.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE VIRGINIA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Executive Committee in discharge of their duty to make a report to said Society submit the following:

The Society at its last meeting unanimously ordered the election of a Permanent Secretary; and the Executive Committee about to depart for their several homes, and seeing the immediate necessity of electing such an officer charged at once to enter upon the performance of his duties, elected Mr. Frank: G. Ruffin to that post, deeming him the most suitable person they could find.

The next step to be taken was a view of their finances, in order to meet the expenditure necessary to accomplish the other objects of the Society. They found their funds scant, as the report of the treasury will more fully show, and their means of operation correspondingly limited.

At the meeting of the Society last fall, an appeal was made to the members to endow it by means of individual contributions, and by guaranteeing their respective counties to raise such sums as might seem proper to them. The response to that appeal was creditable to the generosity and public spirit of Virginia; individuals for themselves and for their counties, and for their cities also, came forward and guaranteed a certain sum amounting to upwards of thirty thousand dollars.

In addition to this fund there was another of the same nature previously existing, which swelled the first named amount to ——— dollars. This whole amount the Constitution requires to be permanently vested, the interest thereon only to be used by the Executive Committee.

The money pledged, except in a few cases of expressed reservation, became due on the first of May last. But very little was paid in at that time, and a good deal still remains due and unpaid. This remark is not made in any spirit of censure against the gentlemen who gave the pledges, many of whom we know have been put to inconvenience by their liberality, but merely to explain for other reasons the state of funds at the Society’s disposal. Nor is it meant to convey the idea that any serious deficiency is expected to result from the tardiness of some gentlemen, and the defaults, if there shall be

ment of a hundred thousand dollars to be invested in the stock of the State, and granted on terms and with limitations, which it was thought would insure its success. But though a bill to this effect passed the Senate with one dissenting voice of those present, a degree of unanimity believed to have been attained by no other new measure, yet it never was reached on the calendar in the House of Delegates, but with every reasonable assurance of its passage if it had been taken up, it was lost through the unfortunate dissension as to other measures which are known to have arisen in that honorable body.

The whole permanent fund has been invested, first in the Savings' Bank of this city, where each deposit drew its amount of interest, and afterwards, as successive accumulations made it necessary to do so, in stock of the city of Richmond, according to an order of the Executive Committee, which required the Treasurer to invest in stocks of the city of Richmond, or of the State of Virginia, preferring the kind for which the lowest premium was required by the then existing market rates, and having due reference to the time which each stock might have to run.

As these investments have, for the most part, been recently made, very few of them have as yet produced any revenue to the Society; and the Executive Committee, having an eye to current and accruing demands, have not felt authorized to invade it for purposes to which, otherwise, they could gladly have appropriated it.

In addition to this source of revenue, there is the still more uncertain supply furnished by the contributions of annual members, now amounting to more than five thousand, who pay each two dollars the first year of their admission to the Society, and one dollar for each year thereafter, so long as they remain members. Of this number many owe more than the annual contribution, very few owe less; but what each owes, and what is the aggregate of the whole, cannot now be known. After consultation as to the best mode of collecting these sums, the Secretary was directed to employ the sheriffs of the different counties, where no more suitable agency could be obtained, to collect at a rate of compensation not to exceed ten per cent., a rate deemed so small that it was in every instance of application, accompanied by an appeal to the public spirit of those officers. The accounts have so far been sent to as many of these officers, as have signified their willingness to undertake the collection upon the terms proposed. But it is to be regretted that in a large proportion of the counties, the sheriffs have not up to this time replied to the circulars addressed to them, and have thus authorized the inferences that they decline acting together, whilst the Secretary, from want of information, except in a few places, has not been enabled to select any other agent, and the payment of dues from them cannot be expected to any great extent.

What the sums to be collected may amount to cannot now be told from the facts, first, that in the hurry of recording the names of the numbers that applied for admission last fall many mistakes were made which the individuals themselves can alone correct; and, second, that the sheriffs will hardly make returns until they collect their taxes. But it is estimated that the whole amount to be collected, the money expected from new annual members, and what may be taken in at the gate during the Fair, will not much exceed, if at all, the expenses of the exhibition and the demands of the premium list.

Anxious to obtain means which should enable them to enter upon the discharge of their duties on a becoming scale, the Executive Committee, as soon as the Legislature granted to the Society a charter, which merely gave it the necessary vitality of a corporation, applied to that body for endow-

ment of a hundred thousand dollars to be invested in the stock of the State, and granted on terms and with limitations, which it was thought would insure its success. But though a bill to this effect passed the Senate with one dissenting voice of those present, a degree of unanimity believed to have been attained by no other new measure, yet it never was reached on the calendar in the House of Delegates, but with every reasonable assurance of its passage if it had been taken up, it was lost through the unfortunate dissension as to other measures which are known to have arisen in that honorable body.

In the month of March last, Mr. Edmund Ruffin was appointed by the unanimous vote of the members present, Agricultural Commissioner for the period of eight months. Soon afterwards he entered upon his duties, and has gratuitously performed sundry valuable services, which will be found in his report to the Executive Committee, which will at proper time be communicated to the Society.

It is to be regretted that no means have been devised for publishing the transactions of the Society. The rates at which all publishers proposed to print them forbade the publication; and after proper inquiry all design of doing so was suspended for the present. Yet the hope is entertained that some means will be speedily devised to accomplish this important object.

Arrangements for appointing an Agricultural Chemist to the Society, or for connecting the Society, with some one or more of the Colleges of the State were not prosecuted to the completion for the same want of means, and it is questionable if any plan of that kind can be judiciously and scientifically carried out until the Legislature, by endowing the Society, or by its own direct action in the premises, shall provide for a thorough geological survey and exploration of the State—a work demanded not less by all other interests, than by the one this body has undertaken to represent.

The suite of rooms that the city of Richmond has agreed to give to the State Agricultural Society, has not yet been put at their disposal. The delay in their construction has been caused by the necessity of the city's occupying for purposes of civil and municipal administration the site of the building they propose to erect for the Society's use, but they will soon be enabled to use their own offices, and can then be enabled to complete the one they have offered to this body.

The number of Societies and Clubs that have been formed within the past year, a number much larger than has ever heretofore existed in Virginia, attest the interest that has arisen; and the connection that many desire and some have made with the State Agricultural Society, shows, that with few exceptions, they are but branches of a parent stem. To all such bodies the Committee have recommended that each Society or Club, desiring to be auxiliary to the State Society, shall adopt and include among its standing rules the following:

"Besides any other discretionary or voluntary services, it shall be the especial duty of each member of the Society (or Club) annually to commence and attempt to complete, at least two experiments on some one or more subjects of practical agriculture on some doubtful or disputed questions, and designed to throw light thereon; which experiments shall be conducted carefully and accurately, to the best of the ability and means of the experimenter, and the circumstances noted minutely, and with

the results, be reported in writing, as simply and concisely as may be, but minutely and fully, at the next annual meeting, and whether the results be deemed successful and profitable or discouraging, or the whole experiment be deemed a failure; and in default of such reports, either of progress or completion of the experiments by each member at each annual meeting, the defaulter shall pay to the Treasurer \$— for each experiment wanting.

"Of the annual income of the Society, not less than one-half of the whole amount shall be appropriated as premiums offered for well conducted experiments on subjects of practical agriculture."

Resolved, That every auxiliary County Society or Club, is requested to transmit to the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the State Agricultural Society, all their completed and approved written communications conveying useful, practical instruction in agriculture, and which has not been previously published; which communications shall be received and disposed of in the same manner, as if made directly to the State Society; and if any such report of experiments or other communications shall have previously obtained a premium from the Society for which it was prepared, it will not be the less entitled to compete for and receive a premium offered by the State Society, if otherwise properly claiming and deserving such honor and distinction.

Resolved, That every such auxiliary County Society or Farmers' Club may, and is requested to send one delegate to the general annual meeting of the State Agricultural Society; and each delegate of auxiliary Societies shall have all the rights and privileges in such general meeting of other and regular members of the State Society.

By this bond of union, simple, but strong, a net work of Agricultural Societies in harmonious operation may overspread the State, and an incalculable amount of practical, experimental knowledge become diffused at an expense too small to be compared with the value of the investment.

In their exhibitions the Executive committee have aimed to impart truths of great moment by means of an imposing spectacle. But they endeavor, at the same time, to set an example of the precepts they would promulge. An analysis of their premium list will show that of the \$8638 which they offer in prizes, \$3480, or 40 per cent. of the whole, are offered for experiments and essays and meritorious written communications; \$630 for crops; \$2320 for animals; \$950 for implements; \$138 for fruits, flowers and vegetables; \$665 for useful subjects, and a few others which pertain to the useful and substantial arts and pursuits of agriculture.

The proportion of premiums for useful subjects, as here shown, will, it is believed, be found to bear a larger ratio to those intended for display than in any other premium list whatever.

All the rail roads and public improvements of the State which are tributary to Richmond have come forward in the most liberal spirit, and, granting precisely such deductions on their charges as were asked at their hands by the Executive Committee, have contributed nearly, if not quite as much to the success of this year's Fair, as they did to the last, when their liberality contributed so essentially to our success.

The Executive Committee cannot, in justice to the city of Richmond, omit to state that by her Council and her citizens individually, she has contributed to the Society in land and money the sum of \$54,000, or even more than that by several thou-

sand, if we take into view the enhanced value of the beautiful lot which she has placed at our disposal as long as we choose to enjoy it, and farther to say that the skill and taste of one of her most useful citizens, (Mr. T. T. Giles,) have adorned the grounds and fitted them for our use and receptance as no other grounds in the Union are fitted up. It is to be hoped that this liberality to an institution whose benefits are but secondary to her, will not without its influence on those whose direct interest it is to foster and promote it.

Before closing their report, the Executive Committee cannot, in justice to their own feelings, and to those of many in the body of the Society, omit a tribute to one of their late associates. The harp of death has snatched from amongst us the vestigial of our little band, and it could not have been taken from the State a man more esteemed by his friends, or who had been more useful to the public than Gen. Bernard Peyton. During a long period of his life a merchant, a part of his life a soldier, he at all times aspired to the dignity of rural life and exulted in the calling and the name of farmer, and meeting death in the very field of his labor he left few stronger heads and no purer hearts, behind him.

The Executive Committee are fully conscious that for the want of adequate means they have been unable to carry out many important measures which, in the ardor of their zeal, they had fondly hoped to accomplish. Yet, so far from being discouraged, they cannot, on reviewing the brief history of this Society, repress a feeling of gratification at the eminent success of their labors.

It is believed that the records of no similar institution in the world, exhibit an instance of success at once so speedy, complete and brilliant. Less than three years ago, when all former efforts to establish a State Agricultural Society had finally failed, on a dark and gloomy winter's evening a small band of determined patriots, numbering little more than one hundred, still hopeful and undismayed, assembled at the capital of their State to make a last effort to rouse the dormant energies of Virginia, and to establish a Society that should be worthy of the intelligence of her farmers and the ancient renown of this noble Commonwealth. The meeting was continued from day to day, a Constitution adopted, officers elected, and the Society put in successful operation. Its members and resources rapidly increased. New zeal was infused into the agricultural community, and aided by the magnificent liberality of the city of Richmond, were enabled before the close of the second year of its existence, to hold the first annual exhibition of the Society—an exhibition which, in taste and magnificence, has scarcely been equalled in any part of the world, and which not only gratified our State pride and interested our own people, but attracted the attention of the whole Union to the undeveloped resources of the Commonwealth, and called forth the admiration of enlightened strangers from all quarters, at the moral, physical, and intellectual sublimity of the spectacle. The farmers of the State and the citizens of Richmond seemed to catch inspiration from the scene, and promptly contributed from their own means, a sum sufficient to place the Society on a permanent footing.

Since that memorable meeting, the effects which on the fortunes of the State none can estimate, much practical information has been diffused through the instrumentality of the Society; no

zeal for improvement had been awakened; and, notwithstanding a partial failure of the crops of the State, through Providential visitations, the resources of our people are considerably increased; emigration has ceased, and immigration has commenced; the price of lands has rapidly advanced; our schools and colleges are crowded to overflowing; so that it may probably be said with truth that Virginia has now, in proportion to population, more youths in a course of thorough education, than any other State in the Union. Over these beneficent results, in part at least to be attributed, to the success of our Society, we have just cause to rejoice. The close of another year finds us on the eve of a still grander exhibition. With our grounds greatly enlarged and improved, a most liberal premium list, zealous preparations for an extensive exhibition, and a vast throng of our enlightened farmers in attendance from every part of the Commonwealth, numbering thousands beyond those present on the former occasion, we have every reason to expect a most brilliant and attractive spectacle. With these cheering evidences in the past, how can we doubt our future success. Let the farmers of Virginia come up to the annual exhibitions with their votive offerings, forgetting all local and party distinctions, remembering that they have a common home and a common destiny, and cordially and harmoniously coöperating in our glorious cause, and the beneficent effects of our labors will descend to distant generations, and our latest posterity will have cause to bless the day that inaugurated the Virginia State Agricultural Society.

PAYMENTS TO THE SOUTHERN PLANTER,

To the 28th of November, 1854.

All persons who have made payments early enough to be entered, and whose names do not appear in the following receipt list, are requested to give immediate notice of the omission, in order that the correction may be made in the next issue:

J. L. Campbell to June 1856	\$3 00
A. D. Campbell to July 1855	4 00
James L. Ransone to November 1855	1 00
Charles L. Christian to September 1855	1 00
William Hocker to September 1855	2 00
George Hocker to January 1855	1 00
Thomas T. Bouldin to July 1856	5 00
Thomas P. Crawford to August 1855	1 00
William H. Campbell to January 1856	1 00
I. Harrison to July 1855	1 00
John J. Lackland to January 1855	1 00
John Selden to July 1855	3 00
J. W. Lackland to April 1855	1 00
A. B. Duncan to July 1855	1 00
J. M. Ragsdale to January 1856	5 00
J. H. Mason to September 1855	1 00
Obad Hussey to January 1855	5 00
William P. Dickinson to November 1855	1 00
Richard Irby (2 copies) to July 1855	2 00
William Irby to July 1855	1 00
J. H. Dobbin to January 1854	1 00
Joseph L. Barrow to July 1854	1 00
R. L. Hurt to November 1855	1 00
I. C. Williams to July 1855	1 00
Col. B. H. Barnes to July 1855	1 00
Dr. Thomas H. Clagett to July 1855	1 00
Thomas C. Reeks to September 1855	1 00
John R. Walker to November 1855	1 00

William Hughes to July 1854	\$1 00
Marcus Durrett to July 1854	1 00
N. Lufborough to July 1856	4 00
J. W. A. Saunders to January 1855	1 00
William Morton to May 1855	1 00
Albert McDaniel to January 1856	2 00
Dr. A. Dold to August 1854	1 00
Capt. R. Jennings to January 1855	6 00
John S. Cowherd to January 1855	2 00
Edward T. Tayloe to January 1856	2 00
Vincent Phillips to January 1856	2 00
Joseph A. Earley to November 1855	1 00
W. L. Earley to January 1855	3 00
Isaac N. Baxter to September 1855	2 00
Henry J. Harris to July 1855	1 00
Richard Green to November 1855	1 00
R. A. Banks to January 1855	1 00
J. M. Fray to July 1855	1 00
Thomas D. Edmunds to January 1855	1 00
Richard V. Watkins to July 1855	1 00
John F. Miller to January 1856	3 00
William Maxey to January 1856	1 00
George Johnson to November 1855	1 00
Thomas S. Henry to September 1855	1 00
James J. White to January 1856	4 00
H. B. White to January 1856	1 00
Wm. M. Hannah to January 1856	1 00
George W. Turner to September 1855	1 00
J. R. Mann to January 1856	1 00
Dr. J. P. Tabb to January 1855	2 00
J. L. Deans to January 1856	2 00
Capt. C. Breckenridge to January 1856	1 00
J. W. Anderson to November 1855	1 00
H. M. Bowyer to June 1855	3 00
Wm. E. Gaskins to January 1856	1 50
Col. Joseph Tulley to November 1855	1 00
R. K. Fitzhugh to July 1855	2 00
L. W. Rose to January 1855	1 00
John Ruff, Sr. to June 1855	2 00
John G. Lane to November 1855	1 00
W. H. E. Merritt to July 1855	1 00
George W. Pettit to September 1855	1 00
James E. Harris to September 1855	1 00
E. B. Jones to January 1856	1 00
C. R. Christopher to March 1854	1 00
B. C. Jones to January 1856	1 00
Sharpe Carter to January 1855	2 00
B. A. Donald to November 1856	2 00
Samuel B. Finley to July 1855	1 00
Sterling C. Anderson to January 1856	1 00
L. Campbell to January 1855	2 00
Ethelbert Le Grand to November 1855	1 00
R. H. Cunningham to June 1855	1 00
Jeremiah Morton to June 1855	2 00
C. J. Meriweather to May 1855	1 00
George S. Ayre to January 1855	2 00
James B. Newman to September 1855	1 00
J. B. Lasley to July 1855	2 00
F. W. Smith to January 1856	2 00
T. F. Nelson to November 1855	1 00
Dr. B. P. Morriss to September 1855	1 00
Harvey Handley to April 1855	1 00
Thomas A. Hardy to January 1855	1 00
Ed. H. Herbert to January 1855	1 00
N. A. Holeman to September 1855	3 00
H. H. Peck to December 1855	1 00
Col. George C. Robertson to September 1855	3 00
James S. Walrond to January 1855	1 00
Maj. J. B. White to July 1855	4 00
Col. G. Moseley to January 1855	1 00
George W. Bassett to January 1857	10 00
David La Prade to October 1855	1 00
James Roy Micou to January 1855	3 00

CRYSTAL PALACE.—World's Fair, New York, United States of America—Association for the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations.

EXCELSIOR.

The Association for the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations awards to **ELISHA S. SNYDER** of Charlestown, Jefferson County, Virgine, the highest premium Bronze Medal, with special approbation, for the combination he has effected, and the practical application he has given the same, in his Labor Saving Machine for Threshing, Separating, Cleaning and Bagging Grain. Hon. Theodore Sedgwick, President of the Association; Hon. Henry Wager, Western New York, Chairman; Watson Newbold, Esq. Columbus, New Jersey; Col. John W. Proctor, Danvers, Massachusetts; Maj. Philip R. Freas, Germantown, Pennsylvania; Hon. Henry S. Babbit, Brooklyn, Long Island, acting Secretary in Class 9, July C.

My Patent Premium Threshing, Separating, Cleaning and Bagging Grain Machine, is for sale, which received the first premium at the Crystal Palace, New York, over all Threshing Separating, Cleaning and Bagging Grain Machines on exhibition, thus proving conclusively that simplicity in construction, cheapness in price and durability in my machine, is being fully appreciated, and the old and new costly inferior complicated Separating Machines, must yield their places to a superior Labor Saving Machine. The celebrated Machine for Threshing, Separating, Cleaning twice, Screening and Bagging Grain by one simple operation. The greatest labor saving Machine in the world for separating all pure and impurities. This Machine throws the straw to itself, the chaff to itself, the wheat in the bag, the screenings to itself, and the smut and cheat to itself. Every thing has a place, and every thing is in its place to suit the conveniences of the farmer. For simplicity, durability, cheapness and capacity, it has no equal in the world. As for what has been stated in the different papers concerning Mr. Zimmerman's Machine receiving the first premium at the Crystal Palace, New York, is false, and not true. It is also stated that Mr. Zimmerman received a number of premiums at — and other fairs. That I know nothing about; perhaps he did; but it is very easy to win the race, as the boy said when he ran by himself. But, my honorable friends, this was not the case at the World's Fair, New York. Mr. Zimmerman had a number of other boys to run with besides himself, which made the race more difficult for him; so much so, that he, Mr. Zimmerman, was neither first nor second; so you may judge where he was.

These are facts that cannot be denied. The undersigned would inform the public that his Farmers' Labor Saving Machine for Threshing, Separating, Cleaning, Screening and Bagging all kinds of Grain, is for sale. Farmers wishing to buy the best Machine in use, will address **JOSEPH GLAZE**, Frederick City, Maryland. Those wishing to purchase the Patent Right to manufacture the Machines, will address me at Charlestown, Jefferson County, Virginia.

July 1, 1854—12t

ELISHA S. SNYDER.

PURE GAME FOWLS.—The subscriber takes pleasure in the announcement to the public his stock of Game Fowls, which he keeps on hand and for sale. Thorough breeds from the best stock of Mexican, Kinney, Butcher, Caroline, Creole and Earl of Derby Game. Prices ranging from two to ten dollars per pair, according to quality and age. Address **J. McL. ANDERSON,** Ruthr Glen P. O., Caroline County, Va.

SITUATION AS MANAGER WANTED.—Any gentleman of Virginia or North Carolina having a large estate and who desires to engage, as manager of the same, a well educated and experienced farmer in whom implicit confidence can be placed, can hear of an individual who can furnish the highest evidences of his capability and trustworthiness.

Address **JAMES J. BORDEN,** Washington City, D. C.

WM. A. BUTTERS,
BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
No. 157 MAIN STREET, RICHMOND, VA.

THE CHINCHA ISLANDS.

As many ships to our address are under charter to proceed to these Islands to load Guano, we beg to submit some particulars relative to the detention of ships and the expenses of loading.

All vessels may expect to lay out the full number of the lay days before loading is completed. A bonus of \$10 to \$15 per day, for every day saved, is sometimes paid as gratification to officials. Most ships are kept a month after arrival, before an order is given to ballast, after which it is decided whether they are to load by lighter or by "Manguera," or shoot, by which the Guano is run into the hold.

The "Manguera" discharges from 400 to 500 tons per day. All ships dry up very much, from being exposed to hot sun, and nearly all are obliged to caulk before leaving, unless they have been very recently caulked. Vessels should be provided with oakum and pitch, and English Caulkers can be obtained at \$4 per day and board. American coin or Sovereigns are best for disbursements—the former passing at par, and the latter at \$5 each. Captains' vessels, short of funds, can obtain money of residence Houses, if well accredited, at 6 per cent. premium upon sight bills, or draw upon their charters at 12 per cent. premium. The following were the Port Charges and disbursements for a ship of 700 tons:

CALLAO. —Stamps, \$5; Sailing License, \$11...	\$16 00
Tonnage Dues, 25c per ton.....	175 00
Clearance dues, Pisco.....	4 00
Com'n on Charter.....	150 00
At the Islands.....	345 00
Manguera Fees, mooring...	\$20 00
Pilot attending.....	24 00
Trimming Fees, 17c reg'r ton	119 00
	163 00
Crew to load from Callao and back, 16 men three months each, at \$20 per month...	960 00
Com'n shipping & boat hire, \$2 each.....	32 00
Market bill for beef and vegetables, 3 months.....	300 00
Water bill for the Islands...	50 00
Crew shipped to go home, 16 men, at \$35 per month, 2 months in advance, \$70 each, is.....	1,120 00
Com'n ship'g and boat hire, \$5 each.....	80 00
Water to go home.....	30 00
Captain's expenses at Callao and Lima.....	25 00
	2,597 00
Add for caulking ship.....	200 00
" " gratification to trimmers and pilots.....	30 00
	\$3,335 00

There is another charge for hire of water casks (2 cents per gallon,) to carry water from Callao to the Islands, which the charter says is to be delivered "free of expense." The water has to be bought, and if the ship has no spare cash they have to be hired. There is also a chance of loss \$50 on the boats or lighters used in ballasting or loading vessels arriving purchasing of those leaving and who loaded, but not always obtaining as much as they expend. **HUSSEY, BOND & HALE.**

BROWN & SHOOK, General Commission and Forwarding Merchants, corner Union and Franklin street Richmond, Virginia. All business carefully and promptly executed.

mar—ly

UNITED STATES HOTEL,
(FORMERLY UNION,)

Corner of Main and Nineteenth Streets, Richmond
J. E. NORRIS, PROPRIETOR.
Price of Board, per day, \$1 50.

WOOL DEPOT.

Richmond, June 22, 1854.

DEAR SIR,—Having been engaged for years past in the sale of Wool, we are fully aware of the difficulties that the Wool Growers of this State have labored under to obtain for their Wool its fair market value. For this there are two causes—one is, that in each lot of Wool, indeed in each bag of Wool, there are several grades, and each purchaser has to buy some Wool that does not answer his purposes; he could not, therefore, afford to pay the full value for an article that he did not want, and which he only bought because it was not assorted. All who are familiar with the sale of tobacco, are fully aware of the loss that the planter sustains who does not assort his tobacco. It is the same case with Wool, to a considerable extent.

Another reason is, that the receipts of Wool have been light, and so scattered that it was difficult to get together a sufficient quantity to attract the attention of purchasers. We have found this operate so strongly that we have not generally attempted to make sale of small parcels of Wool, but allowed our receipts to accumulate; and we have generally obtained from three to five cents per pound more for such large parcels than could be had for small lots. The Wool interest of Virginia is now rapidly increasing, and we think is destined, in a short time, to become an extensive trade. Already there is a sufficient quantity grown, if concentrated to one point and properly graded, to overcome, to some extent, the difficulties referred to above. We think this can be best accomplished by a well conducted Wool Depot. This city appears to be the most accessible point for a majority of the Wool Growers in Virginia.

Being already in this trade, and having an extensive acquaintance with the producers as well as the manufacturers and dealers in Wool, we have determined to open such a Depot in this city, in connection with our present business. In order to conduct it in the most satisfactory manner, we have engaged the services of Mr. JOHN WATERHOUSE, who was long and favorably known as the efficient Agent of the late Woollen Factory in this city.

All the Fleece Wool sent to us and tub washed Wool, so far as it is practicable, will be graded, and each quality put together, unless the owner prefers that his Wool should be sold alone—in that event he will so direct us.

Our charges will be—

Commission for selling,.....2½ per cent.

Storage, grading, fire insurance, advertising and labor,.....1 cent per lb.

We shall always sell for cash, unless we find it to the interest of the owners to sell on time. In that event, we will charge 2½ per cent. guarantee. We will be prepared to cash all such sales as soon as made, deducting the interest.

We hope the establishment of such a Depot will meet with your approval, and that we may be favored with your consignments.

Yours, most obedient,

CRENSHAW & CO.,

Grocers and Commission Merchants, North Side of the Basin, Richmond, Va.

Liberal advances will be made on consignments of Wool, when required.

Genuine No. 1 Peruvian Guano always on hand, and for sale on the best terms.

C. & CO.

auf

STEPHEN H. FISHER, MANUFACTURER OF BOOTS AND SHOES, No. 228, Broad Street, north side, between 3d and 4th streets, Richmond, Virginia, keeps constantly on hand a full assortment of ready made Boots and Shoes of his own manufacture, for Ladies' and Children's wear, which he will sell as low as can be purchased in this city. Boots and Shoes for Gentlemen and Boys on hand, or made to order at short notice. Servants' Shoes of all qualities always on hand. All work warranted.

Farmers are invited to give him a call. ocly

GENERAL AGENCY AND COMMISSION BUSINESS.—The subscriber tenders his thanks for the many calls heretofore received, and again offers his services on reasonable terms. Now for sale many Farms in Maryland and Virginia, Stallions, Bulls, Bucks, Boars, of improved stock; improved Poultry of all kinds; Mares, Cows, Ewes, Sows; Ewes one-half and three-fourths Cotswold; Calves at three months old, one-half Alderney; South Down Ewes with their lambs. For particulars address (post paid) the subscriber,

MARTIN GOLDSBOROUGH,

39 Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

P. S.—Answers to letters particularly desired. M. G. may—tf

ALBANY TILE WORKS, corner of Patroon and Knox streets, Albany, N. Y. Drain Tile of the following descriptions and prices suitable for land drainage, always on hand in large or small quantities of the first quality, delivered at the docks and railroad depots free of cartage:

Horse-shoe Tile.

4½ inch calibre,.....\$18 per 1000 feet.

3½ do. 15 do.

2½ do. 12 do.

Sole Tile or Pipe.

3 inch calibre,.....\$18 per 1000 feet.

2 do. 12 do.

Large Tile for drains about dwellings, yards, &c., of various sizes, \$4 and \$8 per 100 feet. Sole Tile, 4 inch calibre, for sink drains at \$4 per 100 feet. Drain your land and save your crops. Orders from a distance will receive prompt attention.

A. S. BABCOCK.

Albany, April 20, 1854.

jun—tf

VALUABLE ALBEMARLE FARM FOR SALE.—The subscriber offers for sale that valuable and well known farm, the D. S., situated on the waters of Ivy Creek, 3½ miles from the University of Virginia, 4½ from Charlottesville, and immediately on the Staunton and Charlottesville Turnpike, and Virginia Central Rail Road, in one of the most beautiful sections of the State, and in a neighborhood long proverbial for its highly cultivated society, its fertile lands, its pure and abundant water and general healthfulness; also possessing the greatest facilities to the best of markets. The D. S. contains 695 acres, about one hundred acres in timber, and the balance in a fine state of improvement. It has for many years been considered one of the most productive farms in the county, producing finely all the various crops of this section. There is an abundant supply of running water in every field, and large portions of the farm could be converted into watered meadow. The improvements are good and of every variety. Being anxious to sell, terms will be made very accommodating. Address

GEO. B. STEPHENS,

ap—tf

Woodville Depot, Albemarle, Va.

FINE STOCK FOR SALE.—I offer for sale a Devon Cow, 4½ years old, that took the first Premium at the First Cattle Show of the Virginia State Agricultural Society as the best Devon Cow over three years old. A large and very well formed Durham Cow, 11 years old, a very large milker; and two promising Durham Bull Yearlings. Also, seven Cotswold Sheep—one Buck and six Ewes—all young. I have, also, on hand a few pair of superior Essex, Chester County and Grade Pigs, which I wish to sell.

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 1, 1854.—2t*

TH. A. HARDY.

IMPROVED ESSEX PIGS.—The subscribers are now ready to engage pigs from fall litters, got by their superior boars "Lord Weston" and "Uncle Tom." Prices—\$25 per pair; \$15 a single pig. Also the reserved lot of 5 from a spring litter, which won the first prize at the New York State Show this year, consisting of 3 boars and 2 sows—price \$20 a piece. In all cases the money must be forwarded before shipment of the pigs, which will be well boxed and sent by express or otherwise, as desired.

W. P. & C. S. WAINWRIGHT.

Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., N. Y.—nov2t

A. MORRIS, 97 Main Street, is constantly supplied with all New and STANDARD AGRICULTURAL WORKS. The subscriber respectfully invites the attention of the public to his extensive assortment of Books on Agriculture, among which may be found—

The Chemical Field Lectures for Agriculturists, by Dr. J. A. Stockhardt; translated from the German: edited with notes by James E. Tesehemæher.

The Field Book of Manures, or the American Muck Book; treating of the nature, properties, &c. of all the principal manures in common use, by D. J. Brown.

The American Farm Book, or Compend of American Agriculture, being a practical treatise on soils, manures, draining, &c. and every staple product of the United States, with the best methods of planting, cultivating and preparation for market, by R. L. Allen

Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology, by James F. W. Johnston, M. A.

The Monthly Journal of Agriculture, containing the best current productions in promotion of agricultural improvement, including the choicest prize essays issued in Europe and America, with original contributions from eminent farmers and statesmen, 3 vols. 8vo., John S. Skinner, Editor.

The Principles of Agriculture, by Albert D. Thaër.

The Farmer's and Planter's Encyclopædia of Rural Affairs, embracing all the most recent discoveries in agricultural chemistry, adapted to the comprehension of unscientific readers, by C. W. Johnson, Esq.

European Agriculture and Rural Economy, from personal observations, by Henry Colman.

Chemistry in its Application to Agriculture and Physiology, by Justus Liebig, M. D.

The Book of the Farm, detailing the labors of the farmer, ploughman, field worker, &c., by Henry Stephens.

Elements of Scientific Agriculture, or the Connection between Science and the Art of Practical Farming, by John P. Norton, M. A.

An Essay on Calcareous Manures, by Edmund Ruffin: 5th edition, amended and enlarged.

The Farmer's Barn-Book, by Ciater, Youatt, Skinner and Mills.

Together with many other valuable works on farming, the treatment and management of cattle, &c.

A. MORRIS,
Bookseller, Stationer, and Dealer in
feb—1f Piano Fortes, 97 Main street.

ALBEMARLE PIGS.

I AM prepared to receive orders for Albemarle Pigs—a breed made by crossing several varieties, which will grow to good size, and fatten easily at any age. This breed received some of the highest prizes at the Virginia State Fair. I have, also, four boar pigs, from my large Delaware Sow, (estimated to weigh, nett, near one thousand pounds,) which will be ready for delivery in a few weeks. Address, (post paid,) JOHN R. WOODS,
ja—1f Woodville Depot, Albemarle, Va.

ANALYSIS OF SOILS, &c.

THE undersigned is prepared to execute the analyses of Soils, Guano, Marls, Plaster, &c. &c. at the Laboratory of the Virginia Military Institute. Packages may be forwarded through Webb, Bacon & Co. Richmond, or Echols & Pryor, Lynchburg.

Persons desiring further information will please address WILLIAM GILHAM,

Prof. Chemistry and Agriculture, V. M. I.
Feb. 1, 1852. Lexington, Va

STOVES AND FANCY IRON CASTINGS

Exhibited at the Virginia State Agricultural Fair,
By Messrs. Bowers, Snyder & Carter.

THESE Gentlemen erected Works, about two years since, by which they have been extensively supplying the State with articles for which we have heretofore depended entirely upon northern foundries.

Their Cooking Stoves have given entire satisfaction to all Virginia housewives who have used them. On the door of one of these we notice a representation of a sheaf of wheat, in which the heads are even the distinct grains stand out in beautiful relief.

They exhibit a specimen of parlor stove especially worthy of notice. Its style and finish are highly ornamental. Its chief merit consists of a door designed to increase the draught of the fire, which is made to revolve vertically upon a pivot.

These manufacturers, in a modest, unpretending way, are rendering good service to the State, by developing her resources in this branch of domestic industry.

E. B. SPENCE,

H. M. SMITH,

JAMES PAE,

Committee on Household Implements.

I have sold principally, for the past two years the stoves manufactured by Messrs. Bowers, Snyder & Carter, at the Richmond Stove Works, and have found them to give my patrons entire satisfaction both in their operation and durability.

CHARLES D. YALE,
130, Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, Depot for
Bolton & Yale's "Caloric Air Furnace."
jan 1854—1y

EAGLE FOUNDRY.

THE subscriber having removed to the large Foundry, just erected by him and fitted out with machinery of the latest and most approved style, is, in addition to the manufacture of Tobacco Flattening Mills, prepared to receive orders for Stationary Steam Engines, Saw and Grist Mills, Agricultural Machines, Tobacco Presses of every description, and all kinds of Iron and Brass Castings. He pledges himself to execute faithfully, and with dispatch, all work entrusted to him, and respectfully solicits a call from his friends and the public generally.

The highest cash prices paid for old cast iron brass and copper.

PHILIP RAHM,

ja—1y Cary, between Pearl and 15th sts

BOOKS, PIANOS, MUSIC, &c.

JAMES WOODHOUSE, Wholesale and Retail Dealer in BOOKS, PIANO FORTES, STATIONERY, MUSIC, &c. 139 Main St., Richmond, Virginia. Constantly on hand, a full supply of standard AGRICULTURAL WORKS. oc—1f

SINTON & SONS' NURSERY, NEAR RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

AS the season for planting has arrived, the subscribers would respectfully call the attention of their friends and the public generally, to their large and extensive collection of FRUIT TREES, embracing, perhaps, a selection that has not been surpassed, for the climate of Virginia, and nearly all propagated from fruit-bearing trees in their own orchard.

Catalogues, with directions for planting, may be had at William Palmer's Seed and Plough Store; at Peyton Johnston & Brother's Apothecary Store; at C. J. Sinton & Co's. Hardware Store, and at Logan Waller's Commission House, where any orders left will be punctually attended to, and letters addressed to the subscribers, Richmond, will receive prompt attention.

nov—1f JOSEPH SINTON & SONS.

FARM, STOCK, CROPS, NEGROES, &C., FOR SALE.—The subscribers are authorized to sell a valuable farm in the county of Buckingham, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Court House, containing upwards of 800 acres, having on every necessary improvement, consisting of a handsome two-story dwelling just completed, barn with threshing machine, stables, corn crib, carriage and ice houses, blacksmith's shop, &c., with a kitchen and meat house about to be erected. It has also a fine garden and an orchard of fine fruit, embracing almost every variety grown in Virginia. It will be sold with the growing crops, (175 bushels of wheat and 100 bushels of oats have been seeded) stock, and implements of every description, and 16 first rate men and house servants, one of whom is a good blacksmith.

This farm is situated in a region proverbial for health and agreeable society, 15 farms and dwellings being in view from the dwelling.

The owner desiring to remove to the South, and being willing to break up the relations existing among his neighbors, will dispose of the whole at a great bargain.

For terms, &c., apply to

MARTIN GOLDSBOROUGH, Baltimore, or
RUFFIN & AUGUST, Richmond, Va.

un—tf

SUPERIOR SWINE AND PREMIUM POULTRY.—

I am prepared to engage pigs by my large Byefield and superior Suffolk boars, from matchless sows of the following breeds: Byefield, Suffolk, Skinner, Essex, Chester, Delaware, Cheshire and Russian—most of them of mammoth size.

The finest collection of ornamental and domestic Poultry in Virginia—receiving the premium as the finest collection upon individual pairs. They consist of the following: China Pouter, Imperial Chinese, Colatta, Dorking, Spaniard Hamburg, Seabright and African Bantams, Sumatra Caneasant Game, Abbin Game, Mexican Game, Ebon Game, Crested Turkey, Purple Turkey, Pure White Turkey, Breton Geese, Hong Kong Geese, Wild Geese, Crested Black and White Ducks, Java Ducks, Penguin Ducks, Rouen Ducks, Aylesbury Ducks, Pure White Guinea Fowls, Italian Pea Fowl, Madagascar or Lopped Eared Rabbits—ears six inches long, 5 broad.

The above are bred in separate apartments, and can be obtained at moderate prices by addressing

JOHN G. TURPIN,
Clover Dale, near Petersburg, Va.

mar—tf

IMPROVED SUPER PHOSPHATE OF LIME.—The subscriber is manufacturing the above at his Bone Mill, short distance from the city, of the best and purest kind. Farmers are requested to examine his before purchasing elsewhere; the quality will speak for itself, and his price is the same as that manufactured out of the State.

may—tf **R. R. DUVAL**.

GREAT REDUCTION IN PRICES OF HATS AND BOOTS.—**J. H. ANTHONY'S FASHIONABLE HAT STORE**, Columbian Hotel Corner. The cheapest place in the city of Richmond to buy hats and boots is at the above store, where every article sold may be relied on as represented. By this means he has gained a good run of custom, and his customers feel satisfied. Below is a list of his prices, which will be strictly adhered to:

Best quality moleskin, - - -	\$3 50
Second quality moleskin, - - -	3 00
Best quality silk, - - -	2 50
Second quality silk, - - -	2 00

Fine Calfskin Sewed Boots only three dollars and fifty cents.

Also, Caps, Shoes and Umbrellas.

J. H. Anthony has made an arrangement with one of the best makers in the city of Philadelphia to supply him with handsome and substantial calfskin sewed Boot, which he will sell at the unprecedented low price of three dollars and fifty cents. The attention of gentlemen is respectfully solicited, as they are the best and cheapest boots that have ever been offered for sale in this city. He intends to keep but one kind, and sell them at one price.

mar '54—tf

GREAT PREMIUM FAN, patented December 20, 1853. **Montgomery's Celebrated Double Screen Rockaway Wheat Fan**, has, during the past year, been proved to be the best Fan ever offered in the Middle States, having taken premiums over all that have been offered to the public from every quarter of the United States. It took the first premium at the Maryland State Agricultural Society's Exhibition, in October last, where all the most celebrated Fans were in competition.

The first premium at the Virginia State Agricultural Society's Exhibition, in November last.

The Maryland Institute awarded silver medals to it at its Exhibitions in 1852 and 1853, as superior to all others on exhibition.

The first premium was awarded at the Talbot County (Maryland) Show, in 1852; and

The first premium at the Prince George's County (Maryland) Exhibition, in 1853, by the special vote of the Society, in consequence of its superiority and value, it being contrary to their standing rules to award premiums to articles made out of the country.

We annex the following certificate from a respectable farmer of St. Mary's county, and any number of others could be published if necessary, all tending to show the decided superiority of this Fan over any others that have ever been introduced in the Middle States—and as the manufacturers devote their whole attention to this one article, and rely for its continued success upon the faithfulness of its make, as well as the superiority of its principles of construction, farmers and others may rely on having their Fans made of the best materials and workmanship.

ST. GERAMERS, ST. MARY'S CO., MD., Oct. 6, 1853.

This is to certify, that I have tried Messrs. J. Montgomery & Brother's Wheat Fan in some tailings I made in cleaning a part of my crop, which I did not think could be made worth anything; it extracted from a bushel and a half of filth about three pecks of pure wheat. I must say that I never saw a Fan that can even come in competition with J. Montgomery & Brother's Rockaway Wheat Fan, for screening wheat.

BENJAMIN M'KAY.

REFERENCES.

City of Baltimore: John S. Williams, foot of Commerce street; Messrs. Seth & Godwin, No. 4 Bowly's wharf; E. B. Harris, No. 4 Bowly's wharf; Michael Dorsey, Light street; Thos. J. Hall, Light street; N. E. Berry, Lombard street, near Charles; R. D. Burns, foot of Bowly's wharf; Mr. Wilmer, No. 2 Bowly's wharf—all commission merchants.

Virginia references: Hon. William S. Archer, Virginia; Gen. B. Peyton, Virginia; Bill Carter, Virginia; Lewis G. Harvey, Virginia; Rowlett Hardy & Co., Petersburg; A. C. Lane, Richmond; Robert Cole, Richmond, Virginia; M. Heartwall, D. T. Payner, James B. Lundy, J. Ravenscroft Jones, Geo. W. Field, Col. Isham Trotter, John Winbeiks, Wm. Towns, Jas. Hays, Sr., Dr. Wm. W. Oliver, Samuel F. M'Gehee, William M. Watkins, William I. Scott.

We are prepared to sell State or County rights to those who wish to manufacture our Fan.

All orders addressed to the undersigned at the Baltimore City (Md.) Post Office, will be promptly attended to.

J. MONTGOMERY & BRO.

No. 155 N. High st., between Hillen and Gay streets,
may—1y Baltimore.

GENERAL AGENCY FOR THE SALE AND PURCHASE OF LANDS.—**FRANK G. RUFFIN**, Secretary of the Virginia State Agricultural Society, and **N. AUGUST**, Notary Public and Accountant, offer their services to the public as General Agents for the sale and purchase of lands in Virginia, and in the Southern and Western States. Those wishing our services, having lands for sale, are requested to furnish us with a full description of such property; and the terms, &c., upon which they are willing to sell; and those wishing to purchase are requested to inform us of the locality in which they wish to purchase, the price they are willing to pay, &c. Our charges will be moderate.

Office at the office of the Virginia State Agricultural Society.

jan—tf

SCOTT'S LITTLE GIANT PATENT CORN AND COB MILL,

Patented May 16, 1854.



The attention of Planters, Farmers and Stock-feeders in general, are respectfully called to this Mill as the most important article of the kind now in use; not only well adapted for grinding Cob Meal for Stock, but Grits for the table, and especially Bread Meal from corn not fully ripe or dry in the fall.

In setting this Mill no mechanic or frame work is wanted, only requiring to be fasted to a floor or platform. Easily adjusted and used by any body, even a child.

The LITTLE GIANT has received the first premiums at the late Agricultural Fairs of Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and other States; and that in the most complimentary manner; as well as the most ready commendations from the thousands witnessing its performance.

These Mills are guaranteed in the most positive manner; and No. 2 warranted to grind 10 bushels of feed per hour with one horse, and offered at the low price of \$44, all complete, ready for attaching the team—No. 4, at \$66, grinds 20 bushels per hour with 2 horses.

Manufactured by SCOTT & MOCKBEE, No. 7 Balderston Street, near Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland. Liberal discount to dealers. State and County Rights for sale.

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

CORN AND COB CRUSHERS.—We stepped in yesterday to the establishment of Messrs. Scott & Hedges, No. 9 Water Street, and witnessed the performance of SCOTT'S PATENT CORN AND COB MILL, called the "LITTLE GIANT," and can assure those who are in need of a mill for grinding ear-corn for feed, or cracking corn and oats together, that this article is the best adapted for that purpose of any thing we have ever examined. With one horse, they are able to grind at the rate of from 10 to 12 bushels per hour, breaking all the corn and pulverizing the cob completely. The whole mill, ready to hitch the horse to, weighing about 300 lbs, and sold at the low price of \$44, and warranted at that—it does strike us it will soon find its way to every good farmer and economical teamster in the whole country. In regard to the style and workmanship of this Little Giant, we must say it is a little ahead of the rest of the family, and no wonder, for it is Western born. oc3t*

CHOICE FOWLS FOR SALE.—The subscriber has the following kinds of chickens, ducks and geese: Ebon Sumatra, Bengal, Java, Pheasant and Mallacca game chickens; the Aylesbury and Java ducks, and Hong Kong geese: each breed warranted pure and distinct. He has also various crosses of the above named chickens, which in size, beauty and symmetry surpass the original stock. All of which he will sell on reasonable terms, securely cooped and delivered either in Richmond or on the Canal, (free of extra charge.) Address

DR. ERASMUS POWELL,
Powell's Tavern Goochland Co., Va. oc3t*

A CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY! PROFITABLE AND HONORABLE EMPLOYMENT!!—The subscriber is desirous of having an agent in each county and town of the Union. A capital of from five to ten dollars only will be required, and anything like an efficient, energetic man can make from three to five dollars per day; indeed some of the agents now employed are realizing twice that sum. Every information will be given by addressing, (postage paid,)

WILLIAM A. KINSLER,
Box 601, Philadelphia, Pa., Post Office. de1t*

DEERING & DEDERICH'S HAY PRESSES.—We are prepared to supply these excellent Presses at a short notice. They are warranted.

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The Rev. William Roulatt, a well known Methodist clergyman, residing at Naples, draws the following amusing but apt comparison between Dr. McLane's celebrated Vermifuge and a ferret:

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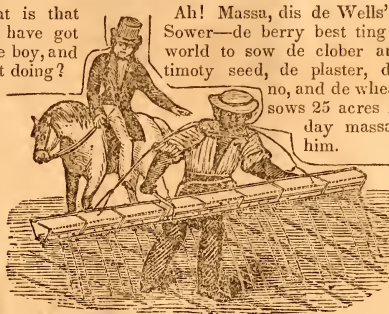
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